

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLIII.]

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 7TH MAY, 1896.

No. 19.

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MARRIAGES.

On the 23rd April, at Trinity Cathedral, Tokyo, by the Rev. J. M. Francis, B.D., assisted by the Rev. E. R. Woodman, LENA, youngest daughter of Capt. JOSEPH THOMAS, to the Rev. CHARLES HOSKINS EVANS, of Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

At Shanghai, on the 25th April, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., ROLLA GERTRUDE, daughter of the late Captain W. T. WAY, to JOHN WATT JAMESON, of Taku.

On the 25th April, 1896, at the Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., W. H. JACKSON, Manager, Vacuum Oil Co., Shanghai, late of Bombay, to ANNIE, second daughter of William and Annie HODGSON, of Sunderland, Durham, England.

On the 28th April, at the Danish Consulate and afterwards at the Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., LILY, second daughter of Willoughby POIGNAND, to FREDERIK GORDIUS NIELSEN.

On the 30th April, 1896, at the Imperial German Consulate, Shanghai, by Consul General Dr. Stuebel, and afterwards at the Union Church, by Pastor Hackmann, Lic., RICHARD WILHELM HEIDORN, to IDA MAY, elder daughter of Capt. WM. SMITH, Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On the 5th May, at Windsor Hotel, Montreal, GEORGE FENWICK, of Victoria Foundry, Hongkong. [1115]

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 26th April, 1896, CHRISTIAN KARBURG, aged 22 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 8th April arrived, per P. M. steamer *Coptic*, on the 29th April (21 days); the English mail of the 3rd April arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Mirzapore*, on the 1st May (28 days); and the German mail of the 6th April arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Karlsruhe*, on the 6th May (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Distressing accounts are given in the Tonkin papers of the famine prevailing in that country. Government aid is being afforded.

A gunboat to the order of the Philippines Government was launched at Kowloon Docks on the 2nd May and was named the *Villalobos*.

The Nippon Fire Insurance Company held its annual meeting at Osaka on the 24th April, when a dividend of 10 per cent. was declared on the working for the past year.

On the 17th April the Austrian Minister had an audience of the Emperor. The audience took place at the Wen Hua Palatial Hall. H.E. Chang Yin Wun, Vice President of the Board of Revenue, interpreted for the Emperor.

A Tokyo telegram of the 27th April says:—The Marquis Ito, Premier, and Marquis Saigo, Minister for the Navy, have decided to visit Formosa to see personally to many important matters, and it is expected they will start within the first ten days of May.

A petition has been presented to the Governor of Saigon by the French proprietors of rice mills praying for protection from the imminent ruin with which they are threatened by the competition of the Chinese mills. They suggest an increase of five cents per hundred kilogrammes in the export duty, with a rebate of ten cents on rice treated in French mills.

It is stated that Japan intends to appoint a military attaché to accompany the Italian forces in Abyssinia. The Spanish Government has declined to permit a Japanese Military Attaché to accompany the forces in Cuba. The Turkish Government has not yet sent an answer to the application sent by the Japanese authorities for permission to despatch a Military Attaché to Armenia.

Captain HARRASOWITZ, of the N. D. L. steamer *Hohenzollern*, and Dr. Rudolph, of the same vessel, were convicted at the Hongkong Police Court on the 5th May of trespassing on the fortifications of Stonecutters' Island, and were sentenced to three months' hard labour. Notice of appeal was given. The doctor had a camera in his possession at the time of the arrest, but on the plates being developed they were found to be ordinary photographs of scenery in no way connected with fortifications.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 23rd April says:—It is reported that arrangements have been completed by which Japan and Russia will co-operate in placing the internal administration of Korea upon a sound basis. A memorandum to this effect has been drawn up by Mr. Komura for the Japanese and Mr. Waeber for the Russians, and forwarded to Tokyo, where it met with the approval of Count Mutsu, Foreign Minister, and Mr. Speyer, the Russian *Chargé d'Affaires*. The memorandum has been returned to Seoul, with instructions that it should be acted upon.

The working account of the Japan Brewery Co., Limited, for the year ended 31st March last, after allowing liberally for depreciation and adding considerably to the reserve fund, shows a profit of \$36,264.86, which, added to \$3,114.14 brought forward from last year, makes a total of \$39,379. Deducting from this the interim dividend of 5 per cent., absorbing \$7,500, which was paid on 23rd October, 1895, a balance is left of \$31,879 which the directors propose to dispose of as follows:—To payment of a final dividend for the year of 15 per cent. \$22,500, to carry forward to next year \$9,379.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha, it is stated, intend opening their proposed line to New York and Philadelphia, and the line to Batoum, Hamburg, and London, as soon as the necessary arrangements are completed. Steamers of about 6,000 tons gross are to be used.

The Standard Oil Company at Shanghai has been informed by wire that the *Charles R. Flint*, which left New York on the 12th March with 100,500 cases of kerosine oil for Shanghai, has been burnt at sea. The *Charles R. Flint* was a Nicaraguan barque of 2,415 tons, formerly the *Cairnchill* of Liverpool.

From Saigon we learn that the new "Orient" rice mill of Messrs. Speidel & Co. at Cholon was almost completely destroyed by fire on the night of the 21st April, only the engine and boiler room being saved. This fine mill had only started running two days previously and not being quite finished it was only partly covered by insurance. The disaster will be a heavy loss for the proprietors.

At Hongkong on the 2nd May an armed gang robbery took place in the Wanchai district. The alarm was given when the robbers left the house, and P.C. Hoggarth, who saw them running, arrested one of them and handed him over to a district watchman while he pursued the others. The prisoner then drew a revolver and shot the watchman dead. Hoggarth upon hearing the shot turned back and saw the prisoner running away, whereupon he fired his revolver and hit him in the foot, and, this not being sufficient to stop him, fired again and hit him in the other foot. The runaway was then re-arrested and he subsequently gave information which led to the arrest of four other men on a charge of taking part in the robbery.

A serious collision took place early on the morning of the 30th April on the Woosung Bar, by which the steamer *Onwo* was sunk, the steamer *Newchwang* seriously damaged, and five Europeans and some three hundred Chinese drowned. Opposite Pheasant Point, where the collision occurred, the river makes a right-angled turn, and a steamer coming in cannot see a steamer coming out at night—though she may see her masts over the land in the daytime—until they are near enough to involve risk of collision. This seems to have been the case in the present case. The *Newchwang* was coming in from Amoy with a strong flood tide under her, and the *Onwo* was going out, bound to Hankow with a very large number of Chinese passengers on board. When they sighted each other, the *Onwo* had the *Newchwang's* red light on her starboard bow, and Captain Slesar blew one blast with his whistle and ported his helm, so that the two steamers should pass port side to port side. The captain of the *Newchwang* blew two blasts, intimating that he was starboarding his helm. It seems to have been too late then to do anything, and the *Newchwang* struck the *Onwo* on the port side before the beam, cutting into her about ten feet. The latter, which was an old vessel, originally the *Peiho* and then the *Taku*, built at Dumbarton in 1870, filled at once and sank in a few minutes, causing a terrible loss of life, notwithstanding the exertions of the U.S. men-of-war, whose boats were on the spot with wonderful promptitude. The *Newchwang* was at once beached on Pheasant Point.—N. C. Daily News.

THE EFFACEMENT OF THE EMPEROR AND THE FATE OF CHINA.

In a recent issue we reproduced from the columns of the *Shanghai Mercury* a very suggestive and striking article on the effacement of the EMPEROR at Peking. Our contemporary roundly asserts that the rule and influence of the Empress Dowager during the past thirty years have been disastrous for China. What has hitherto been mentioned as matter of speculation or rumour is now stated as actual fact, and the woman who as Regent so long exercised supreme power at Peking is accused of scheming even now to recover the power she nominally resigned on the Emperor KWANG SU attaining his majority. Without pretending to possess any information on this point, we are bound to admit that circumstances seem to bear out the presumption. The mysterious death of the late Emperor TUNG CH'IN, the tragic end of his youthful bride, the selection of another child of tender years as his successor, in order apparently to secure a second long regency, and the care shown during his minority to seclude him in the Palace and bring him up under the enervating influence of the harem, all pointed to a determination on the part of the Empress Dowager to mould him to her purposes and create a puppet who would remain plastic to her will. Had His Imperial Majesty KWANG SU openly revolted from Palace rule, had he shown a disposition during the late war with Japan to break the bonds that held him within the narrow precincts of the Prohibited City and gone to see for himself what was happening in his hereditary country of Manchuria, it is to be feared that he would have shared a similar fate to that which overtook his young and more impatient predecessor. But KWANG SU is feeble of mind, it is to be feared, as well as puny of body. He is a degenerate descendant of the vigorous Emperor KANG HI, and perhaps he is not wholly to blame for his mental and physical inferiority. Pent up in the four walls of a Palace—a gilded prison at best—from his earliest childhood, with only women and eunuchs about him, and none of the exercises or games that go to harden and develop the boy into a man, what wonder that he should have grown up with an emasculated mind, a feeble body, and a petulant and peevish disposition! His very nature has been repressed, his intellect dwarfed, his constitution enfeebled. The meanest peasant in his vast Empire has no cause to envy the Son of Heaven the possession of his tinsel splendours, his uneasy seat upon the Dragon Throne, or his right to wield the Vermilion Pencil. His Majesty has, it is announced, left the capital for the Summer Palace, where he will presumably exchange the teachings of his Mentor WENG TUNG-HO, who, if a slavish follower of the Confucian philosophy, at least sought to be patriotic, for the selfish promptings of the EMPRESS DOWAGER and her creatures. There was never much hope of reform or progress being inaugurated by a Monarch with such a training as that received by the EMPEROR, but in the hands of a really enlightened and courageous Minister even His Majesty KWANG SU might have become the patron of progress and the founder of a new era in the Celestial Empire.

There seems scant hope of improvement in the administration under the existing régime. The lessons which the reverses and humiliations suffered by China during the late war ought to have driven deeply home, have apparently passed by and are almost unheeded, if not forgotten. The worst and

most wounding blow to Chinese vanity, the loss of part of Manchuria, was spared to them through the intervention of the three great Powers, Russia, France, and Germany, and for the rest, what matters the loss of Formosa, an island that was always more trouble than profit; while the interposition of the Powers to baulk Japan of part of the spoils of victory is gratifying proof that Peking can always rely on international jealousies to save China from becoming the prey of one aggressive nation! So at least, we may fairly take it, the mandarins argue, and the corrupt Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamen no doubt hug themselves with the belief that, when time of trouble comes round, they can play one Power off against the other, and reject, in turn, all demands for redress or reparation for injuries done. And, to a certain extent, their reasoning is pretty sure to prove correct. The old concert between the Powers has for the nonce disappeared, and for the moment mutual jealousy, distrust, and greed prevent the Foreign Ministers from exercising the influence they would, if united, be able to exercise at Peking. But this position, though it has unfortunately lasted for some years, will not always endure. The Chinese Government, blinded by a belief in their own powers, will persevere in their present policy until one day they will find they have presumed on Western forbearance too long. The situation will become intolerable and the Powers, unable to endure being flouted longer by an arrogant but feeble barbarian, will determine to provide an effective cure for this Sick Man of the Far East. China will ultimately have to be either administered or partitioned. The Western Powers cannot afford to ignore China; she cannot, because of her vastness, become a *quantité négligeable*, but she is too inert, too corrupt, to be allowed to block the wheels of the car of progress for ever and prevent all development in Eastern Asia. There is, so far as can be seen, no coming man in China, no possible regenerator of society, no saviour of the Empire. The vast body is cankered to the core and nothing but a surgical operation will avail for the cure. There are no chances of any successful revolution. Weak as the Central Government undoubtedly is *vis-à-vis* a foreign foe, it is strong enough to repress any attempt at revolt, since it holds the command of the sea, and still has a treasury to fall back upon. Meantime foreign commercial interests in China continue to grow and the desire for extension of territory on the part of Russia and France at any rate is becoming keener. The simple plan

That they should take who have the power
And they should keep who can

will suffice for nations in the twentieth century as it did for Border chieftains two hundred years earlier. There will be no especial tenderness for China when the time arrives for her partitionment. There is no splendid civilisation centred at Peking whose disappearance need be regretted. The Gorgeous East was a term never applicable to the Central Kingdom, a land in which there is little that is even picturesque, nothing that is splendid or romantic, but on the contrary everything that is ugly, commonplace, and squalid. Who would sigh over the breaking up into eighteen or twenty states of the effete Government of Peking? Even if the territories that now own the sway of the Ta Tsing dynasty were to pass under the yoke of other nations, who can doubt that the change would be for the advantage of the natives? We are not advocating partition; it would be more to

the advantage of British trade that China should remain intact than that she should be split up and parcelled out to various Powers or become a congeries of feeble states. But she appears doomed to decay from her own inherent rottenness and it is problematical whether any attempts to preserve her autonomy would be worth the making.

FRENCH DESIGNS AND FOREIGN TRADE IN CHINA.

The report of what was said in the French Senate on the 31st March in reference to French relations with China, telegraphed to our San Francisco contemporary the *Chronicle*, forms interesting if not agreeable reading. M. BARDOUX, it seems, put a series of questions to M. BOURGEOIS and complained that, amongst other things, the Government had bungled in China, pointing out that the opening of the West River to European trade had destroyed the advantages of the French railway from Langsón to the frontier, that the Chinese loan had been obtained by Great Britain, and also referring to the fact that Sir ROBERT HART, an Englishman, was the head of the Chinese Customs service and postal department. The Senator appears to think that the West River should be kept closed in order to benefit a French railway not yet constructed, in short, that the opening of China should be opposed, instead of encouraged, except in particular directions which may tend to the exclusive advantage of France. This is the tone adopted by a large section of the French press, but it is curious to find it so plainly and openly expressed by one occupying the responsible position of a Senator. M. BOURGEOIS, the Premier, of course could not formally endorse such an illogical position, though it apparently commanded his sympathy. It was not correct, he said, that China had ever promised not to open the West River, but he qualified this later by saying that "at all events, the French Government has received assurances the river will not be opened unless we obtain at the same time for a French company the concession of a railway into China."

In asking that a French company may be allowed to run a railway from Tonkin into China France is well within her rights. England will also no doubt ask for permission to extend the Kunlon Ferry line, now under construction, into Yunnan, and the use of some pressure in the matter may be justifiable, when dealing with such an inert and utterly unreasonable nation as China; but that any civilized power should oppose the opening of China in any particular direction, unless it receives something for itself in the way of compensation, is utterly discreditable. M. BOURGEOIS admitted that "should the river be opened, it would not be a privilege reserved to any one nation, but that French commerce, which is so important at Canton, where Lyons buys her silk, would also take advantage of it;" but, nevertheless, unless France is allowed to make a particular railway, the opening of the river, notwithstanding the great boon it would be to trade in general, is to be opposed. When France took Tonkin and made fiscal arrangements with China intended to attract trade to the Red River route not objection was raised by England, and there is certainly no more ground for French opposition to the opening of the West River, which would be a concession, not to any one nation in particular, but to the world in general. A fair field and no

favour is all that England asks, but France incessantly on the watch for opportunities to surreptitiously put a spoke in our wheel and to snatch exclusive advantages for herself. Knowing this amiable disposition on the part of our neighbours it behoves British diplomatists to keep a close eye upon what they are doing.

The latest aspiration seems to be to have a French Inspector-General of Customs. According to the Peking correspondent of the *C. N. Daily News*, one of the terms upon which the French tendered for the last loan was that the control of the Maritime Customs should be placed in French hands. This, it is said, spread consternation in the minds of the British members of the Customs Service. If any such arrangement were made there would be good reason for consternation on the part of British merchants, for impartiality in the administration of the Customs Service could no longer be looked for. The aim of the French is to injure British trade, and with the Customs under French control the Service would inevitably be so administered as to subserve that object. M. BOURGEOIS, in the Senate, to the question, "Is it true that Sir ROBERT HART has been appointed Postmaster-General, in addition to his post of Inspector-General of Customs, by the Chinese Government?" answered that he had received no official notification of such appointment, but that the Senate might be assured that should China decide to appoint, in a larger measure, foreigners as agents for the organization of internal administration, the French Government would not fail to obtain for the French citizens a fair share. To the question, "Is it true the loan which China has just contracted has been granted to British firms?" M. BOURGEOIS answered "that the French company, which had acted in concert with the Russian firms in this matter, could not afford to grant to the Chinese Government the conditions which it demanded and which were accepted by British and German firms." These questions and answers in the French Senate lend confirmation to the statement of the Peking correspondent above referred to.

FOREIGN COMPETITION AND GOVERNMENT INQUIRIES.

In these days when we hear so much about foreign competition and the dangers threatening British trade it is refreshing to read anything on the subject pitched in a more cheerful key. A correspondent writes to the *British Trade Journal* expressing the view, "from a practical experience of business in British manufactured products in distant markets, that, firstly, the foreign competition is not nearly so serious as is generally assumed; secondly, that public inquiries and Government measures do more to advertise the foreigner and hamper trade than to benefit either the British merchant or manufacturer." With regard to the second proposition, it is almost inevitable that such inquiries as are referred to may to some extent advertise foreign goods, but the advantages must greatly outweigh any disadvantages that may ensue on that score. In the same way the Merchandise Marks Act has done not a little to advertise goods "made in Germany" and, where the goods are intrinsically good, to bring them into repute, but no one would now seriously propose the repeal of that Act, because experience has shown that the balance of advantages is in its favour. Individual firms may keep their trade secrets

and find it to their interest to do so, but it is hardly possible for nations to do so, and the more enterprising of our foreign competitors probably know as much about trade conditions in the United Kingdom as British merchants themselves. The diffusion of knowledge on commercial subjects, especially on matters touching foreign competition, must be useful from a national point of view, although there may be individuals who may deem it to their disadvantage that others should be placed in possession of information which has hitherto been the property of the few.

As to the other point advanced by the correspondent, namely, that foreign competition is not nearly so serious as is generally assumed, although the danger may be exaggerated there can be no doubt that to a large extent it is real and substantial. He says that "when anyone with special knowledge examines the complaints of the advocates of British decadence, one is disgusted to find vague comparisons of millions of tons of 'iron' or of 'steel' together with average prices such as do not appear on any invoices, the assumption evidently being that iron or steel is a commodity of uniform standard value and quality in all countries, much as copper or silver. No information is given to show whether the foreigner is not being purposely allowed to take the low-priced unprofitable business, especially with countries where payments are uncertain." But it is absurd to suppose that the trade of our competitors can be built up solely on unprofitable business, especially where payments are uncertain. Referring to the fact that large orders for steel rails for Japan and Chili have been taken by American and German works at 7s. to 7s. 6d. per ton less than English prices the correspondent says "the inference is not necessarily that we cannot compete, but rather that we are for various reasons in a position to let the other people take orders at a loss. Americans and Germans often have to take less for heavy goods than would be paid at London or Liverpool owing to high freights prevailing at their ports." But when we find that the number of blast furnaces at work in England is decreasing while those on the Continent are increasing it stands to reason that our iron and steel industry is not in such a flourishing condition as could be desired. The remarks about higher freights prevailing at Continental ports seems to show that the correspondent himself stands in need of information such as may be collected by the Government inquiries now in progress. A nation enjoying such a great pre-eminence in the carrying trade of the world ought *prima facie* to be in a position to lay down its goods in foreign markets on better terms than nations not so favourably circumstanced, but unfortunately the contrary is the case in many instances and British goods carried in British bottoms have to pay higher freights than foreign goods carried with them in the same hold. If Governmental inquiries can show why this is so and can at the same time suggest a remedy a great boon will be conferred on British trade. Meanwhile the optimism of the correspondent of the *British Trade Journal*, while pleasant at first view, turns to dust and ashes as soon as it is subjected to the test of investigation.

The survey of the road for the Nanking-Chinkiang railway is completed, and is marked out. The line will have branches running to Soochow and Hangchow.—*Mercury*.

BIMETALLISM AND SILVER INFLATION.

A stock argument of some bimetalists has hitherto been that while gold has appreciated in value and so disturbed the level of prices in all gold currency countries the purchasing power of silver in the East has remained unaltered. That position has now become untenable. A diminution in the purchasing power of the dollar is going on of which all whose income is measured in silver and especially those who calculate on cheap silver as an element in promoting the success of industrial enterprises will do well to take note. It was inevitable that such diminution should take place some time; the only question was how soon it would commence and at what rate it would progress. That it has already set in there can be no doubt; its rate of progression still remains to be seen. In Japan the cost of living during the last year or two is said to have advanced from twenty-five to thirty per cent., but in that country the problem is complicated by the introduction of other elements than silver values, such as the war and its results, the scarcity of labour, and the feverish commercial activity that prevails. Japan is at present enjoying what are commonly termed good times (notwithstanding a temporary depression in the silk market), and in good times wages and prices usually rise, whatever the currency of the country may be. The decline in the value of silver may, however, be accepted as one of the principal factors in the movement. In India it was shown a good many years ago that the rupee did not go so far as it did formerly.

In China, however, it was generally assumed until quite recently that the "merry Mexican" was as potent as ever in relation to all products of the country and that it was only in relation to imported goods that its value was less. This bubble has been pricked by the scarcity of cash which has made itself felt all over the empire. There has been no appreciable change in the purchasing power of the copper cash, but there has been a considerable change in the rate of exchange between cash and dollars, so that the latter, which used to command a premium when measured by the former, are now at a discount. As to the prices of commodities in general, a reference to the Chinese Customs returns shows that both in imports and exports values have risen out of proportion to quantities, which proves that, whatever variation there may be in regard to particular articles, on striking an average it requires a good many more dollars to purchase an equivalent quantity of goods than it did formerly. The effect is only beginning to make itself felt in retail matters, but that it has commenced is shown, in a small way, by the statement made by the Chairman of the Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co. at the recent annual meeting that owing to the increased cost of fodder and the rise in maffoo's wages it would be necessary to increase the Company's charges for livery. For some time to come we think this tendency to an increase in silver prices may be reckoned on. It has taken the masses of China rather a long time to find out that silver is not worth quite what it used to be, though the mercantile classes at the Treaty Ports have been working on the knowledge for years past and have been as close watchers of the course of exchange as any foreign banker, and have made large profits. But in these days of rapid communication and close commercial connections, when prices tend to a uniform level all over the world, it could not be

expected that silver would for very long possess a widely different value on one side of the globe from that it possesses on the other.

In relation to gold the probabilities are rather in favour of silver rising than falling in value, but in relation to commodities in China a gradual diminution in its purchasing power may be looked for until equilibrium shall have been re-established. All this, however, in no way derogates from the soundness of the bimetallic principle, namely, that a fixed ratio between gold and silver might be maintained, though it renders more and more improbable the restoration of the old ratio of 15½ to 1. In the last annual report of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association the following sentence occurs:—"The danger to China and Japan—that is, to their newly-born and growing industrial development—is the reversion of Western nations to bimetalism." If we may say so without disrespect, that sentence appears to us to be pure and unadulterated nonsense. It indicates an inability to distinguish between the cause of bimetalism and the cause of silver inflation. The latter is desired by a limited section for their own personal profit and advantage, whereas bimetalism is a sound principle by the adoption of which trade all over the world would benefit. What is wanted is to have exchange between England and China and all other countries as steady as the exchange between London and Edinburgh. The question of the ratio is a matter of detail; but if the principle of bimetalism should ever be adopted we may take it that the ratio to be established will be much nearer two shillings to the dollar than four shillings.

THE BRITISH OFFICIAL AND THE PUBLIC.

Mr. SWETTENHAM, in his excellent paper on "British rule in Malaya," recently read before the Royal Colonial Institute, devotes a very interesting chapter to "The British official and the public." Mr. SWETTENHAM, himself an official, thinks that the English official has something to learn in his treatment of men of his own colour who approach him in his official capacity; he says that some British officials appear to acquire, in the course of their service, a habit of looking with suspicion on all their own countrymen who have any official dealings with them. A good many people who have had personal experience in the matter will be ready to confirm Mr. SWETTENHAM's impression as to the attitude adopted by British officials to the white man in autocratically governed territories, and will agree with him as to the desirability of its being altered. Great Britain has on the whole good reason to be proud of her civil servants, who in all parts of the Empire have rendered excellent service and kept themselves clean handed, but in Crown colonies and territories under a similar form of government there seems almost inevitably to spring up a feeling of hostility between the officials and men of their own race in all matters of business and politics, even in cases where they are socially the best of friends. The explanation of this phenomenon may possibly be that having to deal for the most part with the wily but obsequious native, in governing whom a certain amount of overbearingness is necessary, the official when he has to deal with men of his own colour finds it difficult to suddenly adapt himself to different conditions. But whatever the explanation the fact remains, and unfortunately its effect is not entirely

sentimental but extends to more material matters. "It is a curious fact," Mr. SWETTENHAM says, "that, so far as I know, Crown colonies hardly ever produce really rich colonists, while the constitutionally governed colonies can tell them by hundreds and thousands. I believe the reason is that in Crown colonies there is a narrowness and want of liberality in the treatment of *bona fide* commercial undertakings that makes it impossible to obtain much success, and in consequence the capital, the energy, and the brains go elsewhere." We see something of this in the contrast between Hongkong and Shanghai, the former a Crown colony, the latter a self governing colony in all but name. Here we experience the narrowness and want of liberality to which Mr. SWETTENHAM refers, while at Shanghai the residents breathe the air of freedom. The consequence is that the pulse of commercial enterprise beats more fully at Shanghai than in Hongkong and in manufacturing industry the Crown colony is being left hopelessly in the rear. That is in part to be accounted for by other causes than the incubus of officialdom, but had the European community been allowed a larger voice in shaping the fortunes of the colony from the commencement its commercial development would have proceeded more satisfactorily than it has done. Every Englishman must feel proud of the actual progress the colony has made, but at the same time it must be acknowledged that the progress has not been so great as it might have been. But it is never too late to mend, and we still hope to see the community allowed to manage its own local affairs.

DIPLOMATISTS AND THEIR INFLUENCE.

At the annual banquet of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom the toast of "The Foreign Ministers" was proposed by Mr. CURZON. "The outside world," he said, "knew little of the real character and value of the diplomatists' labours. Too often they deserved the credit while the statesmen and politicians—an ephemeral and discredited race—reaped the glory. The representatives of foreign countries were in truth the accredited plenipotentiaries of the greatest of all sovereigns and the noblest of all courts—the court of international peace. Those only who were in the inner circle of foreign affairs could realize the extent to which foreign complications were composed and foreign dangers averted by the silent and subtle influence of those gentlemen whose presence was little seen in public, and whose names were, perhaps, not too well known, but who, in reality and in the background, while Parliaments blundered and newspapers inflamed, were the sure and silent instruments drawing together the hearts of nations by invisible but golden cords." What the Under Secretary of State said with reference to the Foreign Ministers accredited to the Court of St. James he would presumably be prepared to say with reference to the Ministers representing his own country at Foreign Courts. But how would his remarks apply in the case of Peking? Have the British Ministers at that Court exercised the influence Mr. CURZON claims for diplomatists in general? According to their own account, or, perhaps we should say, according to the excuses put forward for them by their friends, in recent years, at all events, they have not been allowed to exercise any influence at all; they have been mere automata with no will of their

own, all their movements being directed by the pulling of strings from Downing Street. We have never been able to acquiesce in this theory of the effacement of the Minister, to which the last two holders of the office have so complacently surrendered. The result has been that, not being inclined, or not being allowed, to exercise an influence for good, they have exercised an influence for evil, and the effacement of the Minister has meant the effacement to a very great extent of British prestige in China. Whatever blame may be cast on Downing Street for this painful state of affairs, an equal share must also be cast on the Ministers who allowed themselves to be effaced. With the advent of the present holder of the office we trust a new era has dawned and that the British representative at Peking will henceforth play that important part which Mr. CURZON claims for diplomatists.

But there is another point in Mr. CURZON's remarks that suggests reflection. Is it a fact that, while Parliaments blunder and newspapers influence, diplomatists are the sure and silent instruments drawing together the hearts of nations by invisible but golden cords? Is it not rather the fact that the estrangements of nations are due mainly to the folly and ineptitude of their diplomatists? If some enterprising and industrious student would undertake to write a history of treaties, tracing the effects of their stipulations when brought into operation, the makers of the majority of them would come in for little credit and much blame. In former times, less enlightened than the present, the nations were at the mercy of their rulers and potentates and the Ministers appointed by these, but the time has arrived when the common sense of the public should be brought to bear, and is in a measure being brought to bear, upon the conduct of diplomatic negotiations. When "newspapers inflame" it is generally because the information available to them is imperfect and misleading; make all the facts public and inflammatory writing will become harmless and the good sense of the nation may be trusted to arrive at sound conclusions. This principle could of course have no application in semi-civilized countries, but as between such nations as England and the United States it is intolerable that the risk of war should be incurred by the blundering of incompetent or ill-informed officials. The true history of the Venezuelan question, as set out by Mr. HENRY NORMAN in his article in *Cosmopolis*—and he gives chapter and verse for all his statements—appears to be a history of blundering from beginning to end, inasmuch that whereas Lord SALISBURY wrote on the 26th November last that "The Schomburgk line was proclaimed as the irreducible boundary of the colony in October, 1886." As regards the rest, that which lies within the so-called Schomburgk line, Her Majesty's Government do not consider that the rights of Great Britain are open to question; it was within three months semi-officially announced that "This country is now perfectly willing to refer to arbitration the title to all unsettled territory, discarding the Schomburgk line, but excluding the settled districts." The concession was not made in any spirit of "backing down," but simply because it was discovered that the Schomburgk line was not legally defensible as an indication of dominion and empire on the part of Great Britain. When blunders such as this are brought to light, it is time some permanent court of international arbitration was set up as a protection against the warlike consequences that might otherwise ensue from

the mistakes of gentlemen who, according to Mr. CURZON, are supposed to draw together the hearts of nations by invisible but golden cords. In China we have to deal with entirely different conditions, but even here much advantage would result, and many lamentable mistakes be avoided, if our diplomacy were subjected to the beneficial influence of a little wholesome daylight.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTER.

The *Japan Mail* sneers at the encomiums evoked in the Far East by the speeches of Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD in Hongkong and Shanghai. The new Minister, our contemporary in effect says, is a mere nobody, a man without power or influence of any kind; he is simply the mouthpiece of the Foreign Office in London and though he may delight the patriotic instincts of British residents in the East by language stout enough to satisfy any Jingo, his impulses, whether they be military or diplomatic, are absolutely ruled by the telegraph. This ridiculous view of the Minister's position cannot be too strongly or too frequently condemned. There are men who might find it agreeable to enjoy official dignity and official emoluments without doing any work or incurring any responsibility, but Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, if first impressions are correct, is not one of that kind; he is a man of action. We have stigmatised the view of our contemporary as ridiculous, and a moment's consideration will show that it is so, because it places the representative of the nation on a lower level than the representative of, say, the Secretary of a Public Company or the representative of an insurance or shipping concern at one of its agencies. The Secretary of a Company is even more immediately under the direction of his Board than the Minister is under that of the Foreign Office, yet he is endowed with large power and care is taken to select a man who is competent to exercise such power. A man who could do nothing himself and had to consult his directors about every trifle would be considered a nuisance and would soon be got rid of. So also with the men placed in charge of commercial agencies; they are endowed with responsibility and are expected to exercise it. A Minister at a foreign court is also endowed with responsibility and on his zeal and ability depends to a great extent the promotion of his country's interests. Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, if he turns out the man he is believed to be, may exercise as potent an influence in the promotion of British trade and British prestige in China as, for instance, a banker exercises on the interests of his bank. This idea of the irresponsibility of Ministers has of late years been assiduously cultivated and has done incalculable harm. It is time that it was dropped, once for all. It was not by a system of irresponsibility that British greatness was built up; it is not by a system of irresponsibility that it will be maintained. Never was the need of a strong man at the Legation at Peking greater than at the present time. In Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD we believe we have got a strong man, and an able man; it remains to be seen whether that belief is well founded.

A Tokyo despatch, dated the 23rd April, states that an arrangement has been come to between Japan and Russia with regard to Korea. It has been sent to the Korean Government for inspection and will be signed by the two principal powers concerned very shortly.

RUSSIA, JAPAN, AND KOREA.

The conclusion of an agreement between Japan and Russia for the joint control of Korea is referred to as an accomplished fact by the Japan papers, both foreign and vernacular. The agreement is not to take the form of a treaty or convention, but is to be recorded in diplomatic notes, which will probably never be published in full. The existence of a treaty might be denied with as much truth as the existence of a secret treaty between Russia and China has been denied, but the name of the instrument recording the compact is immaterial so long as the compact itself exists. There can be little doubt that a secret compact exists between Russia and China, although it may not be called a treaty; and the existence of a compact between Russia and Japan in regard to the control of Korea is an established fact, which the Japanese Government has made no attempt to deny or to prevent the discussion of in the vernacular papers. It is suggested by one of our Yokohama contemporaries that Great Britain has probably been consulted and has been satisfied with the assurances given. However this may be, there can be little doubt as to how the system of dual control will end. The arrangement is evidently made only to facilitate Japan's withdrawal with as little loss of dignity as possible. The dual control will exist in name for a time, but the actual control will be Russian and in the course of years even the nominal participation of Japan in the direction of the affairs of the Peninsular Kingdom will cease to exist. Russian control, however, will be subject to limitations. Nominally Korea will remain a kingdom and its treaties with the various Powers will continue in force, and as these treaties contain the favoured nation clause it will not be open to Russia to establish hostile tariffs or to secure for Russian merchants any exclusive advantages so far as ordinary trade operations are concerned. The out and out annexation of the country by Russia and its conversion into a Russian province would be objected to by all the Powers having substantial interests in the Far East, but under the arrangement now made all the incidental advantages appertaining to a protectorate will fall to the share of Russia and Russian subjects.

THE LIGHT AND PASS ORDINANCE AND CRIME.

We have to welcome a convert. The *China Mail* says the Government "should adopt a system of registering the imports and exports of the colony." When a Bill with that object was introduced eight years ago our contemporary represented the opposition and argued against the measure with much vigour. In another eight years perhaps our contemporary will be converted on the light and pass question. In the meantime it may be pertinent to remark that the best way to stop robberies by armed gangs is to catch the perpetrators. In the case that occurred at Wanchai on Saturday evening this appears to have been done and the probability is that we shall hear no more of such crimes for a long time to come. That the gang has been allowed to carry on its depredations so long is due, not to the non-enforcement of the light and pass regulations, but to the numerical weakness of the police force. Robberies by armed gangs have, indeed, been known to take place in the day time, though the robbers seem generally to prefer the evening. On

Saturday evening, however, the police force, in the person of P. C. HOGGARTH, happened to be on the spot when required, and we congratulate the constable on his plucky capture.

ARMED ROBBERY AND MURDER AT WANCHAI.

A WATCHMAN KILLED AND A POLICEMAN WOUNDED.

THE MURDERER CAUGHT AND OTHER ARRESTS MADE.

On Saturday night (2nd May,) at 10.30, four men armed with revolvers entered an earthenware shop at No. 20, Cross Street, Wanchai. There was only one man in the shop at the time, and one of the robbers seized him by the throat and pointing a revolver at his head led him into the cookhouse, where he left him after making some show at tying him up and threatening to shoot him if he moved. The party robbed the till of about \$50 in small change and then left. An alarm was immediately raised and the robbers took to their heels and ran towards the Queen's Road. P.C. 70 Hoggarth, who was on duty near Cross Street at the time, joined in the pursuit. He caught one of the gang in the Queen's Road, near the large houses in course of erection on the west of Albany Street, and not being aware of what offence he had committed, or that he was armed, handed him over to District Watchman No. 38, Lau Fai, and started off after another of the thieves who was still in sight. He had only run a few paces when he heard two shots fired and, turning round, saw the District Watchman stagger and fall and the man he had had in custody run off. Hoggarth at once followed him into a lane between the new buildings and fired a shot from his revolver at him, and the bullet struck him in one of his feet. The robber ran on, however, into the building and Hoggarth firing again struck him in his other foot, and re-arrested him. Near where this second arrest took place he found the revolver, a five-chambered Belgian made "British Bulldog," with which the watchman had been shot. It contained three discharged and two loaded cartridges. About the same time this happened Chinese Constable No. 223, Li Lin, caught another of the robbers, who at once fired, shot the lokung in the thigh, and escaped. On returning to the watchman Hoggarth found that the poor fellow had been shot in the chest and he expired before he could be removed for medical assistance. The Chinese Constable was at once removed to the Government Civil Hospital. The man twice arrested by P.C. Hoggarth was charged with robbery, murdering the district watchman, and being concerned in shooting and wounding the lokung in the execution of his duty, and then he was also sent to the Government Civil Hospital. Hoggarth showed great pluck and coolness throughout the affair.

The shocking affair caused intense excitement in the town and there can be no doubt that this is the gang of desperadoes whom the police have been so anxiously looking for for months past. The fact that the murderer was caught practically red-handed is due to the cool bravery of Constable Hoggarth and he cannot be too highly commended for his plucky behaviour. Early on Sunday morning a picked staff of detectives consisting of Inspectors Stanton and Quincey and Sergeants Holt and McIver, who were under Acting Chief Inspector Mackie, turned out to make all possible enquiries about the ghastly crimes, and later in the day the officers, with several Chinese detectives, went over to Yaumati and Honghom and arrested four more men on a charge of being concerned in the robbery and murder. These four arrests were brought out in consequence of a statement made by the man who shot the watchman dead. He did not attempt to make any denial of his guilt and voluntarily gave the police the names of the men who, he said, were his accomplices. When these men were arrested, however, they stoutly denied being in the neighbourhood at the time and the only evidence against them at present is the statement of the murderer.

5th May.

The police are continuing their enquiries into the armed robbery and murder of a watchman at Wanchai on Saturday night, but no further evidence has been obtained against the four men who were arrested some hours after the actual murderer was captured by Constable Hoggarth. One of the men was sent to gaol for five years in 1887 for participating in an armed robbery and the other three are looked upon by the Police as a very dangerous gang. As soon as the alarm was raised on Saturday night the Police lost no time in getting to work and Inspector Duncan, who is in charge of the district, was almost immediately on the scene of the crimes and he promptly surrounded the building in course of erection near Cross Street while the interior was thoroughly searched for the other members of the gang. Inspector Kemp also hurried down from the Central Police Station and helped in the search, but not a soul was to be found. The murderer, who gives the name of Tung Foong, gave the Police an account of his doings, but it is not as yet certain whether the other four whose names he gave were with him at the time. He is still an inmate of the Government Civil Hospital and is likely to remain there a week while the wounds in his feet are healing. The names of the four men arrested at Yaumati and Honghom are Tse Yeung, Chun Chi, Leung Sing, and Li Yuen, and they were taken before Commander Hastings at the Police Court on the 4th May.

Inspector Staunton said they were charged with being concerned in the robbery and murder on Saturday night and he asked for a remand.

The Magistrate—Where is the other man?

Inspector Duncan—He is in the hospital.

The Magistrate—The doctor will hold the post-mortem to-day and I will just take formal evidence for a remand.

Detective Sergeant McIvor said—On the 3rd inst., about 6.15 a.m., in consequence of information received, I arrested the defendants—the first and second at 38, Battery Street, Yaumati, and the third and fourth at 51, Market Street, Honghom.

r The Magistrate—How long do you want remand for?

Inspector Stanton—A week or eight days.

The Magistrate—Defendants are remanded until Tuesday, the 12th inst., at 11.30.

DISASTROUS COLLISION AT SHANGHAI.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

Shanghai, 1st May.

A terrible collision occurred yesterday morning at Woosung. The *Onwo*, Capt. Slessar, left Shanghai with about 350 native passengers for the River ports at about 1 a.m., and crossed the bar at about 2.30. When off Pheasant Point the *Newchwang*, Capt. Hards, was sighted a little on the starboard bow. Shortly afterwards the two vessels collided, the *Newchwang* striking the *Onwo* on the port bow and cutting into her to a distance of about ten feet. The *Onwo* filled and sank within ten minutes of the collision and now lies with her head down stream in 8 fathoms of water, a short distance below the signal station and well over to the Woosung bank of the river. There was a strong flood tide running at the time of the accident and the unfortunate vessel drifted a considerable distance up stream before she sank. The U.S. flagship *Olympia* at once got her boats into the water and picked up several of the native passengers, while a number of men were sent down on to some pontoons which were alongside the ship and saved many of the passengers as they were swept past by the tide. The scene is described by those on board the *Olympia* as fearful in the extreme.

After the collision the two ships remained alongside of each other for a short time exchanging enquiries as to the extent of the damage, during which time some eight or nine Chinese managed to get on board the *Newchwang*. When the vessels separated the *Newchwang* was beached a little below Pheasant Point, where she was completely high and dry at low water yesterday. She has a large hole in her starboard bow extending down to the six-foot mark. Mr.

Cooper, the second officer of the *Onwo*, was on the bridge with the captain and the pilot at the time of the collision and managed to keep himself afloat by means of a boat's rudder until he found himself alongside of the *Olympia*, when a rope was thrown to him and he was hauled on board and taken below to the sick bay, but declined to be put to bed, saying that he must return at once to Shanghai. A carriage was placed at his disposal by the officers and he returned to town. The second engineer, Mr. Small, was saved by the crew of the *Olympia*. When rescued he was almost completely exhausted. The survivors were treated with the utmost kindness by the whole ship's company of the *Olympia*, everything possible being done for them. Dry clothing, and in some cases money, was given to them and they were sent up to Shanghai in the tug *Samson*. It is quite impossible to say with certainty how many were on board the ill-fated vessel at the time, but there were probably about 350 passengers besides the crew, of whom 75 were saved, making the total loss of life about 300. The *Olympia*'s people state that some boatmen were busily engaged in searching such of the bodies as came to the surface, afterwards throwing them back in the water. The body of the chief officer, Mr. E. Keats, was found shortly before noon and brought up to Shanghai in the *Samson*.

Up to yesterday afternoon about 70 bodies had been recovered, but none of the foreigners, with the exception of the chief officer, among them.

The *Onwo* was a screw steamer of 797 tons register, built in Dumbarton by Messrs. Denny and Co. in 1869 and then named the *Peiho*, but owing to some trouble with the native shippers in Tientsin, in connection with a collision in the *Peiho*, extensive alterations were made, including the addition of a mizen-mast, and her name was changed to *Taku*, a piece of harmless deception which was never discovered by the Chinese in Tientsin. She was known by this name until April of last year, when she was converted into a river boat and named the *Onwo*.

The names of the foreigners drowned are:—Captain J. Slessar, master; Messrs. E. Keats, chief officer; R. Scott, pilot; G. Davidson, chief engineer; and J. Allen, third engineer. Captain Slessar, who only joined the *Onwo* on Wednesday, leaves a widow, and Mr. Davidson a widow and two young children.

2nd May.

Amongst those lost in the *Onwo* was Mr. Nie Loh-su, a native pastor of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, who was well known and much respected amongst the missionary community in Shanghai.

Numbers of bodies from the wreck of the ill-fated steamer continue to be picked up up to yesterday afternoon none of the foreigners had been found. The body of the comrade of the *Onwo* was picked up off the mouth of the Hongkew Creek, and that of a woman was found near the Arsenal, having been carried up from Woosung by the tide. We are informed that the bodies which had been recovered and laid out on the bank of the river have been stripped of their clothing by the native villagers.

Mr. Sze, a wealthy native silk merchant, took down at his own expense four large boatloads of coffins and clothing to Woosung yesterday. He also took several native photographers with him, intending to have each body photographed separately to facilitate identification. This is rather interesting as showing that some at least of the Chinese are adapting themselves to foreign methods and ideas.

Mr. Morton, the diver, is going down to Woosung this morning to make a preliminary examination of the wreck with a view to the salvaging of the cargo and the recovery of the bodies which are supposed to be in the cabins. No hopes are entertained of the possibility of raising the sunken vessel, and, as she is a serious obstruction to navigation where she now lies, it is probable that she will have to be blown up.

The *Newchwang* was got off with the assistance of two tugs yesterday and came up under her own steam to Messrs. Boyd and Co.'s wharf. After the damage, which is very extensive, has been surveyed, she will go into dock for repairs. —N. C. Daily News.

SUPREME COURT.

29th April.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

JOHN KENNEDY, APPELLANT, V. J. T. COTTON, RESPONDENT.

This was a motion for leave to appeal from the decision of Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Police Magistrate, whereby appellant was fined \$50 for selling adulterated milk.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Dennys), appeared for the appellant, and Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), who was instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the respondent.

Mr. Francis said the application was made under section 105 of the Magistrates Ordinance, permission having been obtained from the Magistrate authorising the person dissatisfied with his decision to apply to this Court for leave to appeal for a re-hearing. The appellant is John Kennedy, dairyman, and the respondent is an Inspector of Nuisances. The conviction was made under section 4 of Ordinance 23 of 1890, the particular words to which counsel wished to draw attention being "no person shall sell any food for man in an adulterated state." There was no evidence that the milk which was the subject matter of the case was tainted, there was distinct evidence of Mr. Crow that it was not unwholesome or unfit for use, and the conviction was merely for adulterating by adding six per cent. of water. With reference to the word "adulterated" there was no definition of the word given by the Ordinance.

The Acting Attorney-General pointed out that this was not an appeal on a point of law but on a question of fact.

Mr. Francis replied that this was one of those mixed questions of law and fact which could only be dealt with in the way he was taking.

The Acting Chief Justice—If you ask me, I have not the slightest doubt that adding water to milk would be adulteration. The section also says "or which is unfit for use."

Mr. Francis—There is distinct evidence that it was not unfit for use.

The Acting Chief Justice—It is an alternative and shows that something else was contemplated by the Ordinance. I should *prima facie* hold it as a matter of common sense that it is adulteration; there is no appeal on a question of law as to whether adding water is adulteration.

Mr. Francis called their Lordships' attention to the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 36 and 38 Vic., cap. 63, which, instead of making use of the word "adulteration," described certain offences, one of which was the abstraction of any portion of the food. The conviction in this case was not for abstracting anything from the milk but for adding water to it, and that was the only fact on which the conviction was based. The first objection was that there was no evidence, not a syllable of evidence, given by the expert witness examined or by any other witness as to what is the standard for milk. The witness said he found 89 per cent. of water in the milk and he gave it as his opinion as an expert that at least six per cent. of water had been added to the milk. He admitted that he had not analysed or examined the milk given by cows kept here and fed on the food that is available for them. He stated that he had made one examination, but no general examination of milk.

The Acting Chief Justice—I do not think he said he had never analysed any other milk in the colony. I have read the depositions very carefully. Will you show me the passage?

Mr. Francis—Will your Lordship allow me to state my case first and then I will deal with the evidence.

The Acting Chief Justice—I thought you were stating the evidence first.

Mr. Francis—I was summing it up, my Lord. The Acting Chief Justice—Put it accurately, then.

Mr. Francis—From our point of view there is absolutely no evidence as to what is the standard of milk; nowhere is there any statement to enable the Magistrate to form an opinion for himself on the evidence as to whether water had been added or not; no statement as to what the constituent parts of pure milk are, or of the proportions in which they exist in milk, and nothing which the Magistrate could compare with the amount of constituents stated to be found in the sample which was analysed. I am reading now as part of my argument, from a journal called *The Dairy*, an analyst's view in reference—

The Acting Attorney-General—That is not evidence.

Mr. Francis—I am reading it as part of my argument.

The Acting Chief Justice—If you are reading it as part of your argument, you need not tell us where it comes from.

Mr. Francis quoted from the paper a statement that it was most important in the application of analysis to ascertain beyond all doubt what are the relative proportions of the several constituents in milk—a statement which would commend itself to their Lordships' common sense. It was impossible to ascertain whether any substance had been adulterated unless there was knowledge beforehand of what were the normal constituents of an article in its pure state. The expert witness must put that before the Court to enable the Court to arrive at a proper judgment in the case. It was not sufficient that the expert should come into Court without giving any information whatever as to what were the ordinary constituents of pure milk, and simply state, without giving any grounds for his opinion, that at least six per cent. of water had been added to the milk. There had been three or four cases decided in England on the point.

The Acting Chief Justice—The English law is very different.

Mr. Francis—Yes, but this case I am about to cite will strengthen my argument. It is in the "Weekly Notes" of February 1st, 1896, and the case is *Fortune v. Hanson*, which was heard before the Divisional Court. It was a case of milk adulteration and the only evidence before the Court was the analyst's certificate, which stated that there was five per cent. of added water. The certificate was held to be bad, because it did not state the whole percentage of water found in the sample so as to enable the magistrate to form a conclusion whether or no water had been added, and it was therefore held that he was right in his refusal to convict.

The Acting Chief Justice—In the case before us the Government Analyst does state the constituent parts and therefore it is not on all fours with that case. Then in that case the form of the certificate is prescribed by the schedule and without that form it did not have a statutory effect.

Mr. Francis—The principle is that on which the decision in this case was founded. The Magistrate—he being the judge and jury—must have before him the facts which are necessary to enable him to draw his own conclusion as to the correctness or otherwise of the evidence. "There is a great variation in the standard of milk." How can the Magistrate form any opinion supposing the analyst says the total percentage of water was so much? The Magistrate could not decide for himself whether there was added water or not unless evidence was put before him to show what is the normal quality of milk.

The Acting Chief Justice—They do not put that in the English certificates; it is not required by law.

Mr. Francis—The Board of Trade furnishes Magistrates in England with the general average and so they have the standard before them in an authoritative form. But what I submit is, not a question of the peculiarities of the law with reference to milk, but here there are none of the common-sense details that are required in England to enable a conviction for adulteration to be obtained; there was not one single precaution to prevent improper conviction. Adulteration means the addition of a substance not ordinarily found in milk, such as chalk; that is conclusive on the point, but if a witness says he found 89 per cent. of water it is not conclusive unless either he or the Magistrate has before

him some information which shows what ought to be the proper or normal percentage in milk.

The Acting Chief Justice—We must assume that the analyst has information in addition to saying there is so much percentage of water. He says there is six per cent. of added water and he must have some standard before him.

Mr. Francis—Precisely, that is my argument in this case. It substitutes his opinion for the judgment of the Magistrate, and the witness is not the judge in the case.

The Acting Chief Justice—Don't you think his opinion is more valuable on a technical point than the Magistrate's? A matter of fact must be decided by someone. If certain jurymen, as is sometimes the case in criminal cases, went into the box to decide whether there was too much water, that would not be so satisfactory as to have the opinion of an independent man. There is nothing unusual in making his certificate *prima facie* evidence. Here you have one thoroughly trustworthy expert and no expert has been called against him. He is quite independent.

Mr. Francis—The expert in this case is paid by the Government.

The Acting Chief Justice—He would do his duty for both sides and would not press to obtain convictions.

Mr. Francis—I do not know. A man is paid by his client to do his duty.

The Acting Chief Justice—It is not like experts in the Taipingshan cases, for instance, the object of one side of experts being to make the property as valuable as possible and—

Mr. Francis—And on the other side to save the Government money.

The Acting Chief Justice—In this case the expert witness was not trying to get a verdict for his client. We must have some one in his position in the colony.

Mr. Francis urged that the Magistrate must have some material before him in order to exercise his opinion as to what is the standard. In the case he had quoted it was laid down that Magistrates might adopt one standard and analysts another. In England, where a certain amount of legal effect is given to a certificate of the analyst, the Court of Appeal had held that that certificate was not necessarily conclusive. That decision amounted to this: whatever the form of certificate provided by law and whatever the analyst's evidence it must be such as to enable the Magistrate to exercise his own opinion and, if he thinks fit, to take another standard than that adopted by the analyst.

The Acting Chief Justice—If there is no one to decide on these matters then every milk seller in the colony can adulterate his milk and laugh at the public. He can say "Opinions vary;" but they do not vary except within certain limits.

Mr. Francis—I am applying for a re-hearing on the ground that additional evidence is necessary to enable justice to be done in the case. It is necessary for the Magistrate, before he can come to any decision, to know what is the standard of water supposed to be in milk. I submit it is law and common sense that the evidence of the analyst to be good evidence must give data upon which the Magistrate can act. No Magistrate can act on evidence of mere opinion. If the analyst had said the standard quality of milk was such and such and he found in the sample of milk considerably more water than there ought to have been the Magistrate would have been in a position to form his own opinion. The Magistrate is not bound by the analyst's opinion as to what the proper standard ought to be. It must be satisfied that there is sufficient to show that the provisions of the Act have been infringed. An expression of opinion does not show anything. The evidence given by Mr. Crow is only evidence of opinion. He does not say that the standard quality of milk ought to contain so much water and that the sample contained so much more water than the standard. That would have been evidence to act upon. Mr. Crow's statement was that there were 89 parts of water found in the milk and that in his opinion there was six per cent. of added water, from which no one could draw any conclusion unless they were told what the standard quality ought to be in pure milk.

The Acting Chief Justice—But he said that the total of non-fatty matter was 8.1, fat 2.06, and his third point is, water 89.93. If Mr.

Crow says upon that there is at least six per cent. of added water it stands to reason that he puts the proper standard somewhere in the region of 84.

Mr. Francis—We are prepared to offer any amount of evidence that the recognised standard in England for the percentage of water in milk is 88.5. As the result of 120,000—

The Acting Chief Justice—What are you reading from?

Mr. Francis—It is a dairyman's paper.

The Acting Chief Justice—Yes, of course, they would make the standard to be very large.

Mr. Francis—Excuse me, my Lord, I am asking for a re-hearing. I am saying we can put in evidence at the re-hearing because there was a mistake—

The Acting Chief Justice—You had plenty of opportunity for giving that evidence before the Magistrate and going into the matter and you were represented by a very able solicitor.

Mr. Francis—The solicitor is a very able one, my Lord, but there is another point. He was under the impression that, on the authority of another case, the evidence he put before the magistrate to show there had been no adulteration ought to have overweighed Mr. Crow's evidence entirely.

The Acting Chief Justice—The question is, was there sufficient evidence for the Magistrate to convict upon: we cannot go upon any hypothetical case. What we have to decide is, was the decision of the Magistrate upon the facts before him a right and proper decision or was it a wrong one?

Mr. Francis—That is not quite the question, I submit. You have constant applications made for a re-hearing and if the Court was satisfied or had reason to believe, either from evidence or statements of counsel, that there had been a gross miscarriage of justice your Lordship would grant a re-hearing. The evidence we are prepared with is that 87 to 88.5 per cent. of water is the average quantity to be found in milk and that average quantity may vary within limits ranging from 81 to 91. The average total solids found in milk is, according to investigations carried on in England, Germany, and America in over 120,000 analyses, 12.66, and they may vary from 7.2 to 18.9.

The Acting Attorney-General—The point is whether the Magistrate was right in convicting upon the evidence before him.

The Acting Chief Justice—It will be time, when you have a re-hearing, to bring forward that evidence. The question is whether the Magistrate was right in convicting on the evidence before him. If there had been no opportunity of calling witnesses before the Magistrate it would have been another matter.

Mr. Francis—I think your Lordship should take into consideration that this class of case has been extremely rare in the colony, and that there are no materials at hand to go upon. I also ask your Lordship to bear in mind there is no provision here as there is in England for furnishing the accused with a portion of the specimen taken in case he should like to have it analysed himself.

The Acting Chief Justice—If he had asked for it and been refused it would have been different.

Mr. Francis—But he was not told. He did not know who bought the milk. It was taken away and he did not know where it went.

The Acting Chief Justice—It was a bottle sealed with Mr. Kennedy's seal and it was unsealed by the analyst.

Mr. Francis—There is a certain amount of evidence of course fairly sufficient to show the identity of the milk obtained from Mr. Kennedy and that which was submitted for analysis. But that same evidence would be valueless in England, where precautions are laid down as to conditions preceding any conviction. As soon as the milk is bought the man must be told that it is for the purpose of analysis and a portion of it must be given back for the purpose of being analysed. I ask you if similar precautions should not be taken here, where there are infinitely greater difficulties and where we are unaccustomed to this class of case.

The Acting Chief Justice—What was to prevent Mr. Kennedy asking Mr. Crow to see with his own eyes a quantity of milk taken from a cow, selecting any cow he liked, see the

milk taken from that cow, and then having it analysed, thus bearing out that the milk he had sold was the same in quality?

Mr. Francis—Very well: I should think the immediate answer of my learned friend would be that that would go for nothing, as the question is "Did you adulterate the milk you sold the other day?" That evidence would be of no value.

The Acting Chief Justice—Why not? Supposing sample No. 2 was drawn from the cow and was therefore clearly not adulterated. If the analyst found a large quantity of water in it he would say "I see clearly that your cows produce more water than usual."

Mr. Francis—That is putting it from the other point of view.

The Acting Chief Justice—If, on the other hand, he found that milk drawn straight from the cow produced only, say, 83 per cent. of water, and the first sample he got produced 89 per cent., and if he found that the fatty and non-fatty solids were much more in the sample he had seen drawn from the cow, he would say there was additional force in his statement that the first milk was adulterated.

Mr. Francis—We cannot compel him to do that.

The Acting Chief Justice—If you wanted it for the defence he would have done it.

Mr. Francis asked if it was fair to deal with a man in that way and in a case the nature of which they were practically unacquainted with, and proceeded to quote another case, *Hewett v. Taylor*, reported in the "Weekly Notes," February 15th, 1896. In this case defendant had shown that he had himself superintended the milking of two cows and the Court had held that his evidence was worthy of credit. In the present case Mr. Kennedy's witnesses had given an account of the process of milking and the consignment of the milk to the repository. They had said that no water could get into the milk and, as in the case quoted, their evidence was worthy of credit.

The Acting Chief Justice—I read the evidence very carefully yesterday afternoon and it says there were six cows at the Mica Works. David Kennedy milked them and took the milk to Causeway Bay. Then George Bayford, foreman at Causeway Bay, saw sixty-seven cows milked, and that milk was put by him into three large cans and he says that those three cans and one containing the Mica Works milk were sent in a van to the Garden Road repository. Now, when you come to another part of David Kennedy's evidence he says four cans went from Causeway Bay in addition to the one from the Mica Works. So somehow one of the cans slipped in at Causeway Bay, as Bayford says there were four cans and Kennedy says there were five. Is it not quite possible that that extra can contained buffalo milk which is used for making butter, or something else? That may account for the whole thing.

Mr. Francis—I do not think there is any possibility of a can of buffalo milk accounting for six per cent. of added water.

The Acting Chief Justice—I do not know that it is important, but it is a singular thing. Kennedy says "I drove in with the cans to Causeway Bay. I put in the cart myself and sent to the Garden Road repository four cans, and another can from the Mica Works was sent out in the same cart." That makes five cans that went from Causeway Bay to Garden Road. Now turn to the evidence of George Bayford. "The milk was put into three large tins; there was another tin in the cart." So you have a can that came to Garden Road which is not accounted for. Isn't it preposterous to suppose that count can be kept of all these cows? It cannot be said to have been proved conclusively that the whole of the milk was never lost sight of when there are 167 cows. That extra can is the most damaging part of the evidence.

Mr. Francis—There is a discrepancy in the number of cans, but at the same time there is positive evidence of persons who may be mistaken as to the number of cans that the cows were properly milked and that there was no water in the cans. That is a trifling discrepancy.

The Acting Chief Justice—It is a very weak point in your own evidence and differentiates the case from the English case you quoted.

Mr. Francis—Does your Lordship believe

that a jury would attach any importance to the fact that there was a difference of opinion as to whether there were four or five cans when there was the positive statement of all parties that no milk was put into the water—I mean no water was put into the milk? (Laughter.)

The Acting Chief Justice—The contents of that extra can cannot be spoken to by anybody. It might have contained half milk and half water. After a case is fairly tried the Magistrate must come to a conclusion to the best of his ability. He comes to that conclusion and there is an appeal. Unless it is most likely that he was wrong the Court cannot grant a re-hearing in order to give the defendant time to get a lot more evidence. Such a course would be a temptation to commit perjury.

Mr. Francis—We would not offer any evidence on that point: the question as to what is the standard of quality is the most important.

The Acting Chief Justice—Mr. Crow, who has analysed milk in England, is an expert specially employed for a certain purpose, and it is not to be supposed that an expert like Mr. Crow does not know the standard, and the question is whether his certificate is not *prima facie* evidence. It is absolutely conclusive. If the milk had been taken from a small number of cows and you could have proved that it was an absolute impossibility for water to have got into it, the Magistrate might have come to the conclusion that there was no water in it. But we have the very strong evidence of the analyst, and we have evidence that an extra can that was not intended to be sold to the public was put by somebody into that cart and was received at Garden Road where the milk was all mixed before it was sold. In that way it is possible that extra water may have got in, and Mr. Kennedy is liable upon that.

Mr. Francis said he asked for their Lordship's decision on this point: Did the scientific evidence given by the analyst comply with the common law as laid down in the case he had quoted that the Magistrate should be in possession of such facts as would enable him to form his own opinion and his own judgment as to whether the analyst's opinion was correct or not? If the Magistrate thought himself bound to accept the analyst's opinion because of his very great experience and his official experience then the decision of the Court was the decision of the analyst and not of the Magistrate. The common law required that the Magistrate should have such facts before him as would enable him to form his own opinion on the evidence before him, and he was at liberty to dissent from the analyst's opinion if he chose. Now there was no evidence put before the Magistrate as to what was the standard quality of milk and the prosecution did not ask the question. The decision was given simply on Mr. Crow's opinion.

The Acting Chief Justice—He has been cross-examined.

Mr. Francis—There was no evidence given before the Magistrate of the standard quality of milk.

The Acting Chief Justice—He could have been cross-examined on the point.

Mr. Francis—Cross-examination is not intended for the purpose of aiding the prosecution. The evidence was that outside water had been added to that milk. Mr. Crow said there was in his opinion six per cent., but he gave no evidence as to what was the normal quantity of water in milk, and if he had given the standard recognised in England he would have said 87 to 88 per cent., and broadly I say he knows nothing about local milk.

The Acting Chief Justice—There is no evidence that he has never analysed any other milk. I believe he has. I cannot take it for granted that he has not unless he says so.

Mr. Francis read Mr. Crow's evidence and pointed out that the witness could not attempt to set up a standard with one analysis.

The Acting Chief Justice—Why do you assume he is not acquainted with the standard of milk? It is part of his business.

Mr. Francis—Yes, and it is part of the business of the prosecution to put that standard in court so that the Court may judge itself, and as Mr. Justice Kennedy has said, the court may adopt some other standard.

The Acting Chief Justice—Mr. Crow stated how much fatty and how much non-fatty mat-

ter there was, and in the English case the analyst omitted to do that.

The Acting Puisne Judge—Suppose Mr. Crow went to Honolulu and analysed the milk of cows there for the first time. Would you be prepared to accept his analysis as a correct one?

Mr. Francis—I would be prepared to accept his analysis as to the quantity of the different materials, but if he went further and said there was six per cent. of added water in it I should say "Do you know what these cows are fed on? Have you analysed the milk of sufficient cows? because you are talking nonsense."

The Acting Chief Justice—Is not that a proper thing for cross-examination?

Mr. Francis—No.

The Acting Chief Justice—Do you mean to say, Mr. Francis, you would not have asked these questions yourself?

Mr. Francis—Certainly not. If the prosecution thinks proper to omit evidence I should certainly not think of asking that question. If Mr. Crow had given one standard I should have cross-examined him with a view to showing that there was another standard or variations of the standard. If he omitted the fact I should be guilty of a breach of professional conduct if I brought out the question.

The Acting Chief Justice—That shows you would be afraid of the answer.

Mr. Francis—No. It is a well known rule of law that I should be committing a breach of professional etiquette if I asked questions the answers to which would tend to support the case for the prosecution.

The Acting Chief Justice—I should prefer to get out the whole truth.

Mr. Francis—It is for the Court to bring out the whole truth; it is not the duty of counsel for the defence to do so. That is well known in professional etiquette.

Proceeding with his argument Mr. Francis pointed out that Mr. Crow said he could not quote figures as to Australian cows, which showed that Mr. Crow had no knowledge or practical experience of Australian cows.

The Acting Chief Justice—The man would be almost superhuman if he could get into the witness box and quote figures as to every cow under the sun.

Mr. Francis—If Mr. Crow cannot quote figures, how can he possibly say there was six per cent. of added water?

The Acting Chief Justice—It does not follow that this particular cow was an Australian cow; all the milk was mixed up.

Mr. Francis, in conclusion, said Mr. Crow was an able expert, but the law is that a Magistrate must decide on the case before him and not on Mr. Crow's opinion.

The Acting Chief Justice—I do not think I need call upon you, Mr. Pollock. I think I will give judgment in this case at once. It seems that the appellant, Mr. Kennedy, was convicted before the Magistrate, after a careful hearing on the 1st and 2nd of April, on a charge of having sold adulterated food for man. Now by the 5th section of Ordinance 23 of 1890 the words "food for man" are defined to include every article of food or drink for man other than drugs or water. The question is whether Mr. Kennedy was rightly convicted of having sold milk which was adulterated by having water added to it. The evidence on which the Magistrate seems to have relied in convicting appears chiefly to have been that of Mr. Crow, the Government Analyst. He stated in the box, and put in his certificate as part of his evidence which was given upon oath, that in his opinion at least 6 per cent. of water had been added to the milk, and in that certificate he stated what the percentage of non-fatty solids was, what the percentage of fat was, and what the percentage of water was. He also stated the specific gravity by the hydrometer, with the result that he came to the conclusion that at least 6 per cent. of water had been added. Now, it may be said that ought not to be taken as absolutely conclusive evidence, and I quite agree. It is quite open to the defendant to produce evidence on the other side. A case occurred in England where a certificate was put in stating that water had been added, and the answer of the defendant was "The milk came from two cows only. I superintended the whole operation; I swear no water was added;

and I had opportunities of seeing from the time the milk left the cow to the time the milk got into the purchaser's hands, and I swear that no water was added." It was open to the Magistrate to believe or disbelieve the man. If the man had been a doubtful character it is probable the Magistrate would not have believed him, but as the case happened the Magistrate did believe him and the Magistrate refused to convict. There was an appeal, and the Court above refused to disturb the decision of the Magistrate who refused to convict. In this case Mr. Kennedy seems to have attempted to put in the same kind of defence that was put in in England. Unfortunately for him he had to deal with milk from a total of 129 cows, viz., 56 at the repository, 6 at the Mica Works, and 67 at Causeway Bay. He calls the witnesses who superintended the milking; he calls the witness who superintended the milking at the Garden Road Repository and that gentleman gives evidence which makes it extremely doubtful whether any water was added there. Then Mr. David Kennedy is called, who superintended the milking at the Mica Works. He said that there were six cows there and that the milk from these cows was all put eventually into one can and taken by him to Causeway Bay. The man at Causeway Bay, that is to say, Mr. George Bayford, attempts to account for the remaining cows, and he says that he saw the milking there, and he swears no water was put in there. Well, he said that the whole of the milk from these 67 cows was put into three cans, and accordingly they endeavoured to show on the part of the defence that no water was added to the milk that came either from Causeway Bay or from the Mica Works. But Mr. George Bayford says that there were three large cans from Causeway Bay and one from the Mica Works, whereas Mr. David Kennedy said there were four cans sent from Causeway Bay. Whether that is a slip or not I cannot say, but it is a distinct flaw in the chain of evidence. It introduces by evidence given by the defendant's own witnesses an element of uncertainty into the whole defence. It introduces a can which is not accounted for by anybody as having come from Causeway Bay. We have in evidence that at Garden Road the milk is generally mixed up. We do not know what was in that can or whether water was in that can—whether it was milk or whether it was water and milk. It is at all events a charitable conclusion to come to that in some way there was milk of a quality in that can which was not perhaps intended by Mr. Kennedy to be mixed up with the milk that was to be sold. At all events, from the evidence it seems pretty clear that whatever milk did go to the Garden Road Repository was mixed up and sold. Therefore, the defence that all the milk was watched from the time it left the cows till it went into the bottles fails, for we have a whole canful of something which came from Causeway Bay with the four cans which is not accounted for by anybody. Under these circumstances, the Magistrate, as he very well might, said "I reply *prima facie* upon the evidence of the analyst, and I do not think the case for the defence is sufficiently clear to make me refuse to rely upon the evidence of the analyst." Under these circumstances, he convicted and inflicted a fine of \$50—the maximum fine by the Act is \$100. Now, I do not see any reason myself for disturbing that decision. I have read this case very carefully; I form simply my own conclusions upon it, and from the evidence I have come to the conclusion that I would have given the same decision if I had been sitting as a Magistrate, and under these circumstances I do not see why the appellant is entitled to have the case re-opened and reheard. If any further case comes on, and if these figures which Mr. Francis quoted to-day can be proved before a Magistrate, whether the result will be the same or not in another case I do not know, but there was every opportunity for the defendant in that case to bring forward all the evidence he wished to bring forward. He had an able solicitor to defend him, the Public Analyst was put in the witness-box and was cross-examined, and under the circumstances I see no reason to disturb the decision which the Magistrate came to. If we opened the case on the mere suggestion that something else might be proved, and if we had the case tried again,

there would never be an end to litigation and there would be a strong temptation to perjury, because a man having had his case once tried sees there is a link or two missing and there is great temptation to get witnesses to come forward and supply the missing links. I do not think this is a case in which there is sufficient doubt to justify me in re-opening the matter and having the case reheard. I am therefore of opinion that the appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The Acting Puisne Judge—What the Magistrate had to decide on the evidence before him at the Magistracy was whether water had been added to the sample of milk produced in Court. Upon one side there was the evidence of Mr. Crow, scientific and skilled evidence, that in his opinion water had been added to the extent of six per cent. He not only put in his certificate stating that that was his opinion, but in the box in evidence he gave specific reasons for that opinion, being aware at the same time that water in milk was a variable quantity. These reasons I think I stated in my judgment at the Magistracy. Then, I wish to remark that the opinion of Mr. Crow in such a case as this, being the opinion of an expert, is legal evidence, upon which a Magistrate can come to a conclusion. It is just one of those cases where an expert gives his evidence and a Magistrate is allowed; and perhaps is justified, in forming his opinion upon it. On the other hand, you had a large number of witness called on behalf of Mr. Kennedy who deposed that during the several stages of the milking no water was added and no water was found. In balancing these two opinions the Magistrate had to take into account two things. He had to remember that the analyst was an absolutely independent witness and in the second place he had to remember that the evidence of the analyst is very strong evidence indeed. On the other hand, the Magistrate had to consider that the evidence of defendant's witnesses might possibly be not altogether disinterested. Their own interests or the interests of their master were very much involved; and again the Magistrate was justified in considering that the evidence of all these witnesses was evidence of persons probably not trained to accurate observation, and there was also the fact that there was a large number of tins which, very probably speaking, it would have been impossible for one man to look into and examine. There was a case the other day in the House of Lords. It is not a case in which milk is involved, but I adopt the words of the Lord Chancellor:—"To my mind, no evidence has been given by the other side leading to any such conclusion as should upset the value, or the force, or the effect of the certificate and evidence given. In saying that, I do not deny that everybody on the other side may have given evidence perfectly *bona fide* in the belief that their vigilance was not eluded. But what then? It is not the first time in my experience that I have heard a whole body of evidence given, from which, if you believed it, the logical conclusion would be that a certain fact was not so at all, and yet it was so, and this fact must be accounted for." I concur in the judgment of the Chief Justice.

30th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

TSO TSZ KI, PLAINTIFF, AND U LAI WOON, DEFENDANT.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Mounsey) appeared for the plaintiff, and Hon. Ho Kai (instructed by Mr. Ho Wyson) appeared for the defendant.

In this case, which was heard on the 22nd, 24th, and 25th April, his Lordship delivered the following judgment:—In this suit the plaintiff claims \$16,600, being \$10,000 principal and \$6,600 interest, as due to him from the defendant as one of two guarantors for the repayment by Wong Tsik Hing (the principal debtor) to the plaintiff, of the sum of \$10,000 lent by the plaintiff to Wong Tsik Hing on the 17th December, 1889. At the time of the loan Wong Tsik Hing was com-

He was secured to that firm to the extent of altogether \$40,000 by the defendant, together with Lo King Chee and a third person named Leung Man Shik. The amount for which defendant personally was security was \$16,000. Wong Tsik Hing was indebted to Messrs. Douglas Lapraik in December, 1889, to the extent of at least \$30,000, an amount which he admits was subsequently largely increased by share speculations, and eventually, on the 7th August, 1890, he had to leave, and on 1st December, 1890, he was adjudicated bankrupt. Reverting, however, to the year 1889 when the loan in question was made, it seems that about September or October, 1889, according to Wong Tsik Hing's evidence, the firm required him to find further security. He was asked to increase his security as compradore from \$40,000 to \$60,000. His then sureties were not in a position to increase the amount and he, accordingly, entered into negotiations with the plaintiff, who was introduced through one Lai Hing Ting. The plaintiff declined to furnish the \$20,000 additional security, but agreed to become security for the whole \$60,000 from the beginning of the ensuing Chinese year, which commenced on 21st January, 1890, and take half the profits of the compradore. The defendant and his co-sureties were willing to retire and, but for some difficulties which arose later, on about the plaintiff's title, or "land deeds," as he called them, probably, the change would have been duly made and the plaintiff would in due course have been surety to the firm for the compradore instead of the defendant and his two co-sureties. The sureties took a share in the compradore's profits and naturally required some consideration for the burden imposed upon them. Pending the negotiations for the change in the sureties the compradore, Wong Tsik Hing, told the plaintiff he must have \$10,000 without delay, as he says, to pay certain compradore's office accounts, though the plaintiff says he understood the \$10,000 was to pay all that was owing, and offered to give a promissory note, as security. The plaintiff said "How will it be secured?" and (to quote Wong's evidence) Wong thereupon "begged the defendant and Lo King Chee to be security. They asked for how long? I said, two months. They said they would do it for two months; longer it would not do." Accordingly the agreement in writing of 17th December, 1889, was drawn up between the plaintiff and Wong Tsik Hing and shown to defendant, and the so-called promissory note was also drawn up later the same day, as I take it, on the faith of that agreement. The agreement was as follows:—The persons who have agreed to make this agreement are Tso Tz Ki and Wong Chik Hing. Now the compradore work of the Douglas firm has been hitherto performed by Wong Chik Hing. Because the business is not very good this year, and, further, the proprietor wishes the amount of security to be raised, therefore it is agreed that Tso Tz Ki shall be requested in the first moon next year, i.e., the Kang Yan year, to give as security the land deeds valued at \$60,000, and to stand permanent surety for Wong Chik Hing as compradore, and in the future there shall be no repentance on both sides. With regard to all the income derived from the compradore's office, the net profit, after deducting the expenses and amount paid for, provisions, etc., shall be equally divided between the two parties, each to take half the said (profit). At present Tsz Ki consents to procure \$10,000 and hand this money to Wong Chik Hing to pay up all his debts. All the interest on this loan shall be entirely paid by Wong Chik Hing himself. A promissory note shall also be made and handed over to Tso Ki to keep as proof. Just now Mr. Woo Lai Woon and Mr. Lo King Chi, the old sureties, may be allowed to sign as guarantors for the full payment of this amount, until the time comes for changing the security in the first moon, when a new promissory note will be made and the interest is still to be paid by Chik Hing himself. This new promissory note shall be handed to the new surety to hold and keep. This done, the old promissory note will be returned to the old guarantors to be cancelled. As to the accounts of the compradore's office, it is agreed that Tsz Ki shall employ one of his relatives to look after the keys of the safe and

the moneys and to daily examine the accounts and to see that no favour is done to each other, and that no payment is irregularly made, so as to prevent partiality. It is further agreed that the old employee Woo Lai Woon shall be employed as a shipping clerk, and Lo King Chi as an accountant for taking accounts. When the time comes for changing security next year, even if anything untoward should occur, or even though the proprietor of the Douglas firm should disapprove the new man as surety for Chik Hing, Chik Hing agrees to still abide by these conditions as long as he is compradore to the Douglas firm. He will, as an acknowledgment of the favour Tsz Ki has done to him on this occasion by procuring the large loan for him, equally divide with each other all the income of the compradore's office, each taking half (the profit), so as to fulfil the promise he has made from beginning to end, and he will never retract from these words. This is purposely mentioned in order to prevent further discussion. This is evidence.—Kwang Sui, 15th year 11th moon 25th day, 17/12/89. Tso Tsz Ki and Wong Tsik Hing in their true handwriting signed this note. The so-called promissory note was as follows:—“Now borrowed from Mr. Tso Tsz Kee \$10,000 in current bank notes. It is agreed that interest at the rate of \$10 per \$1,000 per month shall be charged. The use of the money is limited to two months, after which the principal and interest to be repaid in full. This is proof. Securities for the repayment, Woo Lai Woon, Lo King Chee. Witness, Lo Moi Sang, 17th December, 1889. This note is made by Wong Tsik Hing; true handwriting.” No doubt in the ordinary course of things it is the duty of a surety to see that his principal pays. According to the note Wong Tsik Hing ought to have paid in February, 1890; though, according to the written agreement, which must be considered as well as the note, it was intended that the note was to be satisfied in the first moon by a new one being given by Wong Tsik Hing instead of by actual money payment and that the note would then be handed to the defendant and his co-surety to be cancelled. Now what happened seems to be as follows:—The plaintiff, who was mostly at Macao, where he was on Chinese New Year's day (21st Jan., 1890), came over to Hongkong on 25th January and thenceforward had several interviews with the compradore, the defendant usually being present. The plaintiff also saw Mr. Davis, of Douglas Lapraik, and, in the end, though Mr. Caldwell and, later on, Messrs. Wootton and Deacon cured certain defects in his title-deeds, which Douglas Lapraik had required to be put in order, he never became security at all. The arrangement fell through, and about July, 1890, another person, Chan Tung, became security and the defendant and his co-sureties became liable to make good the \$40,000 for which they had become security for Wong Tsik Hing as compradore, and so lost the property which formed the subject of the security to Douglas Lapraik. The defendant contends that it was through the fault and the imperfect titles of the plaintiff that he failed to carry out his agreement to become surety. The plaintiff, however, says he discovered, after he lent the \$10,000, that the compradore was largely indebted and so was unwilling to carry out the arrangement, though he declared in the witness box that it was never suggested by any one that in becoming surety for \$60,000 he would incur any liability as to the indebtedness of the compradore incurred prior to the date of his becoming surety. He never intended, nor was he asked, he says, to be surety for anything but future indebtedness and there is a direct conflict of testimony on the point as to whether he was informed, before he signed the agreement of 17th December, 1889, that the compradore then owed the firm over \$30,000. In the result, no new promissory note was given and the old note was not handed over to the defendant and his co-surety to be cancelled. The principal debtor became bankrupt in December, 1890, the defendant's co-surety has now been long absent from the colony, and the defendant swore that he was never asked to pay till he received a lawyer's letter, dated 9th July, 1895, requesting him to pay the \$10,000 principal and \$6,600 for interest, which he says he thought “extraordinarily strange.” The

defendant appears to have remained in the colony till 1893 and to have been employed at the Fat Ki coal shop. The plaintiff says the defendant was asked to pay then, but this the defendant denies. He left for Japan about July, 1893, and returned in April, 1895, but he swears he saw the plaintiff between 1890 and 1893 while he was still in the colony, and the plaintiff did not ask for payment. If the defendant's liability was not considered at an end it certainly seems strange that he was not sued before he went to Japan and it was deposed to, both by the defendant and Wong Tsik Hing; that, early in 1890, the defendant wanted the note given up and the terms of the agreement carried out, but was told the note was in Macao and that statements were made by the plaintiff to the effect that the note was unimportant, it was a matter thereafter only between the plaintiff and the principal debtor, “the note was of no use,” and the defendant deposed:—“I told plaintiff to change the note and to take me out from being guarantor. He said this note does not concern you now; there is no need of your being guarantor, nor can I ask you for money; this note is now mine and the principal debtor's matter.” Wong substantially corroborates this evidence and said that when pressed to burn the note he told the defendant that Tso Tsz Ki said the note was then of no use and he gave the agreement of 17th December to the defendant to keep, to show their guarantee was only for two months. The plaintiff, however, denies saying the note was no longer important. Wong also stated that in 1890 he gave the plaintiff \$3,300 worth of notes due to him to collect on account of the \$10,000 and interest, and the plaintiff said he could pay the balance of \$7,000 in three years or when he “made wealth.” The plaintiff, however, denies this and says that the notes proved worthless, the makers were insolvent, and the notes were returned to Wong by Lo Min Shang, who was called to prove he did so return them. Wong denies having received them back. Unfortunately in this case there is considerable conflict of testimony and, as the parties did not wish for a jury, I must decide upon the facts as well as upon the legal effect of these facts. Wong Tsik Hing being largely indebted, and having no money to pay with if he lost, continued largely to speculate in shares. Such conduct is so dishonourable that I discount the value of his evidence when it conflicts with that of a man against whom nothing is known, but I see no reason why the defendant is not as worthy of credit as the plaintiff and Wong's evidence corroborates the defendant's version. The defendant and Lo King Chee were already sureties for a large sum for the compradore. They only agreed to be surety for the extra \$10,000 on certain conditions. There was a time limit. It was agreed the plaintiff was to become surety for the compradore in the first moon, that is, within a month after 21st January, 1890, and that a new promissory note (in which, in my opinion, the defendant's name was not to appear) was to be given and the old one cancelled in that first moon, and as a further consideration for becoming security for the two months the defendant was to be employed as shipping clerk. The plaintiff failed to carry out his agreement to become surety, in my opinion, because he did not use and did not wish to use due diligence to put his title-deeds right. He changed his mind, I believe, about becoming security and did not carry out the arrangements which induced defendant to become guarantor. The defendant never got the post of shipping clerk and yet in July, 1895, has a writ issued against him and he is asked to pay \$10,000 and \$6,600 for interest. After carefully considering the whole evidence I find as a fact that the plaintiff in 1890 by his words and conduct did wilfully cause the defendant to believe and act upon the belief that plaintiff no longer looked to him for payment of the \$10,000 and that his liability as surety was considered by the plaintiff to be at an end. I find that in so doing he altered the position of the defendant, who, under the belief that the plaintiff no longer looked to him, might well take no further steps to insist on payment of the note by the principal debtor or upon the new promissory note being given and his own suretyship being cancelled. In the witness box the defendant said “I took no proceedings

against the plaintiff to get back my guarantee as the note was of no use.” Accordingly I find for the defendant and give judgment for the defendant. In the ordinary course costs would follow the finding, but there are certain circumstances in this case, in addition to those I have alluded to, which make me think that justice would be best satisfied by my making no order as to costs and leaving each party to pay his own.

4th May.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

JARDINE, MATHESON AND CO. V. A. M. A. SHIRAZEE.

The plaintiffs claimed altogether \$7,264.04 from the defendant, who is a merchant carrying on business at No. 18, Hollywood Road, Hongkong.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., and Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), who were instructed by Mr. V. H. Deacon, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Francis said the claim was against the defendant as acceptor of two foreign bills of exchange for \$4,000 and \$3,000 respectively, which were drawn by Haji Mahomed Kerim Shirazee in Persia upon the defendant payable to the Imperial Bank of Persia in Ispahan or order, and were endorsed by the Bank to the plaintiffs and were accepted by the defendant. The bills were duly presented to the defendant for payment, but they were dishonoured by him and were noted for non-payment. The first bill was for \$3,000 and was drawn on the 20th June, 1894, accepted by the defendant on the 18th October, 1894, and was payable on the 25th October, 1894. The second bill for \$4,000, which was drawn on 26th September, 1894, and accepted by the defendant on the 5th November, 1894, was payable the 29th December, 1894. The principal due on the bills was therefore \$7,000. In addition to that the plaintiffs claimed in respect of the first bill \$130.03 interest thereon from 25th October, 1894, till 7th June, 1895, at 7 per cent. per annum, and \$5.25 for the cost of noting the bill. In respect of the second bill the plaintiffs further claimed \$123.51 for interest from 29th December, 1894, till 7th June, 1895, at 7 per cent. per annum, and \$5.25 for cost of noting the bill. The amount of the claim was therefore \$7,264.04, and the plaintiffs of course also claimed interest thereon at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum from the date of the issue of the writ until judgment. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. held these bills simply as agents for the Imperial Bank of Persia for the purpose of collection. They were not the holders in due course for value and had not been in any way connected with the transactions under which the bills originated. The bills were presented for payment on 2nd January this year, but defendant refused to pay. The petition to the Court was in the usual form, and the defence set up in the pleadings raised four issues which it was agreed upon between the parties should be the only ones in the case. The issues were: (1) Are the plaintiffs as endorsees and holders of the instruments referred to in the portion of the claim entitled to sue? (2) Are the said instruments bills of exchange and negotiable instruments? (3) Did the defendant accept the same? (4) Did the Imperial Bank of Persia purchase the same from the drawer for value? With regard to these issues it had been agreed to have only the first three tried that day and to allow the fourth to stand over until further particulars came from Persia. In regard to the first issue Mr. Francis said that, assuming the documents were bills of exchange, the plaintiffs relied on section 38 of the Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 9 of 1895. Counsel read this section and also the definition of “holder” and said no further argument was necessary. Speaking of the remaining issues counsel referred to certain translations of Persian documents and quoted section 8, sub-section 4 of the Ordinance, and said the only material matter was that the

payee was mentioned. The real point was, Were these bills of exchange? Counsel read section 3 of the Bills of Exchange Ordinance which gave the definition of a bill of exchange and argued that the translations showed that every condition necessary to the validity of a bill of exchange was contained in the documents, the word "order" not being necessary to its negotiability. He submitted that the order or request to pay was entirely free from any condition either expressed or implied, and as to the form in which the order was made he referred to Byles, 14th edition, 1889, in which it was stated that no particular form was necessary to constitute a proper drawing. The case of *Ruff v. Webb*, 1 Esp. p. 126, clearly bore this out. The defence might rely upon the case of *Little v. Slackford*, *Moody*, and *Malkin*, p. 171, and counsel distinguished the two cases. He then referred to section 17 of the Bills of Exchange Ordinance and said the mere signing of the documents would be sufficient acceptance, but the defendant had gone further. When the bills were presented the defendant not only signed his name across the face of them, but wrote the word "accepted," gave the date of acceptance, and that date was calculated to the number of days mentioned in each bill plus three days of grace—three days of grace being allowed only in bills of exchange. The plaintiffs' contention was that that fact being now admitted defendant was absolutely stopped from denying that these were bills of exchange. Sub-section 2 of section 27 of the Ordinance said, "Where value has at any time been given to the bill the holder is deemed to be the holder for value as regards the acceptance." If the defendant had refused to accept the bills and had refused to recognise them they would have been sent back to Persia and the Imperial Bank of Persia would have probably been in a position there and then to recover against the drawer or against any other person concerned in the transaction.

His Lordship—Subject to anything Mr. Robinson has to say, what strikes me as the real point of the whole question is, are these bills of exchange?

Mr. Francis said quite so and that was the particular point to which he was asking his Lordship's attention. The defendant had treated them and recognised them as bills of exchange and had practically said "These are bills of exchange and I accept them and I take advantage to claim three days' grace." The plaintiffs being the holders, and not the holders in due course, the question would have to be considered as to what defence the defendant might set up in reference to the position of the Imperial Bank of Persia. The plaintiffs were simply representing the Imperial Bank of Persia and the question was, what contract did the acceptor enter into with the Imperial Bank of Persia? The signature of the Imperial Bank was on the back of the bills as endorsees, and the entire argument must rest upon the assumption that the bills were *bona fide*, and his Lordship's decision might be reversed and entirely put aside for all practical purposes if the counsel for the defence was ultimately able to prove that the Bank of Persia were not holders for good value in due course. The defendant had entered into an unconditional contract to pay the bills on a fixed date, so that the plaintiffs were entitled to what counsel would call an interlocutory judgment for the full amount of their claim, because there was no defence on that point. By the admission of the defendant himself it was proved that the documents were bills of exchange and that he had entered into an unconditional contract to accept; therefore he was stopped from denying that the documents were bills of exchange.

Mr. W. A. Cruickshank was called to give evidence as to the holding of the bills by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., and a merchant named Sadeck Ismail was called for the purpose of translating the documents from Persian to Hindustani in order to enable the Court interpreter to translate them from Hindustani into English. The witness did not understand English very well, and—

Mr. Robinson said he could not accept this mode of translation, as he wished to have a direct translation from the Persian into the English language.

The Court adjourned at 12.30 for luncheon to enable the parties to come to an agreement respecting the translation of the documents.

After the adjournment Mr. Francis said he had consulted with his learned friend Mr. Pollock and they asked permission to withdraw the second issue. They could not agree with the translations on the other side and it was so extremely difficult to get evidence. If his Lordship decided against them on that issue it would have been an end to their case, and their proposal was to issue a commission from Persia as to the precise translation of the documents. The plaintiffs now asked for his Lordship's decision on the first and third issues as to whether plaintiffs were entitled to sue on the question of fact, assuming the documents to be bills of exchange.

Mr. Robinson—If the other side will submit to a non-suit for—

Mr. Francis—A non-suit on an issue!

Mr. Robinson—Yes, that is what it comes to. They have brought their case for hearing and they cannot prove that part they were trying to. They cannot prove there is a bill at all.

His Lordship—The whole thing hinges upon the translation of the bill. You have had a couple of months to get up the case and surely plaintiffs' solicitor should have taken steps to get a proper translator and not take up the time of the Court by arguing that their translation is correct and then finding they cannot prove it.

Mr. Francis—There are many difficulties in the way, my Lord, and I do not think that the time of the Court has been absolutely wasted, because only a comparatively small portion of the time has been taken up by arguing this question.

In the discussion which followed Mr. Francis mentioned that Mr. Ismail handed to Mr. Hastings a translation of the documents and therefore the solicitor had done all he could in the matter.

His Lordship—I am not going to give any judgment in any part of the case until I know what the instruments really are.

Mr. Robinson—The defendant does not admit that he made any acceptance of a bill. If this is a bill, then of course there is an acceptance.

His Lordship—This is very unsatisfactory. Instead of taking up the whole time of the Court surely—

Mr. Francis—In opening the case I am bound to state the whole of the case for the plaintiffs. Counsel always opens his case on the assumption that his witnesses will be able to prove what—

His Lordship—I am not suggesting it is your fault. What I say is that those getting up the case must have known that a correct translation was required.

Mr. Francis—It has turned out to be a very grave misfortune, Mr. Hastings, the solicitor conducting the case, did the best he could to get all the evidence, and he is of opinion, if I may be permitted to use a slang expression, that he has been "sold" by the witness whom he called. The witness got into the box and his evidence differs from that which he lead us to believe that he was going to give.

His Lordship—It seems to me that the most satisfactory course to adopt would be to adjourn the case. I cannot try the case on its merits till I know what document it is we are discussing. The only question now is a question of costs.

A discussion ensued on the question of costs of the day, Mr. Robinson strongly urging that the plaintiffs ought to pay them.

Mr. Hastings was then called. He said that Mr. Ismail gave him a translation of one of the documents *viva voce* in English. Witness produced what he wrote down. Mr. Ismail spoke English moderately well.

Mr. Ismail was recalled and said that Mr. Hastings wrote out a translation in English and read it over to him and asked him if it was correct. Witness said it was. He did not know he was going to be called as a witness.

A further discussion took place and Mr. Robinson said the justice of the case required the plaintiffs to be non-suited as their case had been heard and they came into Court unprepared with evidence. They could begin a fresh action if they liked.

His Lordship—I am rather inclined to think that the plaintiffs ought to pay the costs of the day.

Mr. Robinson—They should be non-suited, or, if there must be an adjournment, we are entitled to the costs of the day. Supposing, my Lord, I am promoted to the Bench before this case comes on for hearing again,—

Mr. Francis—Then they can get a much less troublesome man to carry on the case. (Laughter.)

His Lordship—I cannot decide the case now, and I think I had better state shortly what has happened as another judge will have to try the action. This is an action on two bills of exchange brought by the holders against the acceptor. The bills are in Persian, and the writ was issued on the 8th June and the purport of the bills is set out in English on the writ. A summons was taken out on the 28th June calling upon the defendant to show cause why the plaintiffs should not have judgment for the sum of \$7,264 with interest. On that Mr. Bell-Irving filed an affidavit and he has set out two English translations of the bills. He states in his affidavit that these two translations are true—at least he is informed and believes they are. Then on the 8th July defendant filed his affidavit showing cause why he should be at liberty to defend and in that affidavit he sets out what he alleges to be a true translation of the document. He makes the translation different from the translation set out in Mr. Bell-Irving's affidavit. The matter then came before Sir Fielding Clarke and he ordered the suit to proceed in the ordinary way, giving the defendants leave to defend. Then, later on, the parties came before me in chambers and they arranged amongst themselves four issues which they thought should be raised and tried. Of course the pleadings themselves are on the file and I do not know that I need specially allude to them except to say that the defendant specifically denies the second paragraph, the words he uses being these—

"I deny that the said documents are bills of exchange or negotiable instruments either according to the laws in force in this colony or according to the laws in Persia." Now it seems to me that the first thing that the plaintiffs would have to prove in opening these issues—three of which are asked to be tried by me to-day—the first thing to prove would be the correct translation of the bill of exchange. They knew that in the pleadings the defence specifically put in issue the question whether these documents were bills of exchange or not. We have spent some time in arguing these issues on the supposition that the translation put in by Mr. Francis was a correct translation, and, as I understand, the translation of these bills was obtained in this way. In respect to one of them Mr. Hastings went into the box—

—Mr. Hastings being the solicitor who is with Mr. Deacon and has charge of this case—Mr. Hastings says as regards the translation of the \$3,000 bill that "Mr. Ismail called at my office and gave me a translation" (which Mr. Francis, in his opening statement to the Court, said was a correct translation). "I took it down from his lips in English. He spoke English and I produce the original translation as I took it down. He speaks English moderately well." Then when Mr. Ismail was put into the box to-day to prove this translation he tells us that he cannot speak English sufficiently well to translate a bill, and I understand Mr. Francis's contention is that this witness, for some reason or other, is telling a somewhat different tale now from that he told Mr. Hastings. For some reason or other he does not want to translate this bill to-day. Well, I cannot tell whether he is to blame at all or not to-day. He swore himself that he was not told that he would be required to go into the witness box to swear to the translation, and it is quite possible that he might have considered that he knew enough of English to tell anybody the translation, but not to tell upon oath that the translation is absolutely right; that he is not in a position to go into the witness box and swear upon oath when he hears a discussion about many of the actual words used in this bill, and he thinks it would be most right and proper for him to say that he does not know enough of English to be able to make a verbatim translation of this document upon oath. Under these circumstances

the Court is in the position that we do not know what the documents are that we are discussing. We do not know what the translation is and it is idle for us to discuss minutely points of law as to whether requests are sufficient without being orders when we do not know the meaning of the Persian words. It seems to me, therefore, that we cannot decide the action until we get a proper translation, and there is one of the issues—as to whether value was given for this bill—which, by consent of both sides, was not to be argued to-day, but if necessary at a later day. Therefore I am not in a position to decide the case to-day and I should certainly not be satisfied to do as Mr. Robinson says, non-suit the plaintiffs because they have not proved the translation. It seems to me that the proper course to take is to adjourn the hearing of the issues. I do not say that the time of the Court has altogether been wasted, but as it will probably be not the same judge who tries these issues when they come on again, he certainly will not have the advantage of the discussions on the points of law which have arisen to-day, so it may be that the ground will have to be traversed again. The only question, therefore, is as to the costs. I am clear that the proper course is not to decide any of these issues to-day, but to adjourn the hearing until a proper translation is forthcoming, and the only question is, Who is to pay the costs of what one may almost call the fiasco that has occurred to-day? I am inclined to think that the best course would be to adjourn that question for the judge to decide who tries the issues.

Mr. Robinson—How can the judge so conveniently decide that question as your Lordship? The fiasco is not on our side.

His Lordship—I know. I am inclined to think that in all probability the judge will make the plaintiffs pay the costs of this matter to-day, but the question to my mind is this: I am not sure that if it turns out eventually this is a proper translation and that the translation put in by the defendant himself and sworn to by him as being correct is wrong—I am not sure that he will not be the man who has created the whole difficulty. The defendant has put in this affidavit, and paragraph 8 says, "The true translation of the said documents is as follows." Therefore he is in a position to swear to it.

Mr. Robinson—We are quite willing to accept it and to go on, but my friend will not accept it.

His Lordship—Suppose it turns out that his translation is wrong and the other translation is all right?

Mr. Robinson—That is not our fault.

His Lordship—Mr. Bell-Irving's affidavit has been put in, and you deny the accuracy of the translation in his affidavit.

Mr. Robinson—We set out our own. I have not seen Mr. Bell-Irving's affidavit.

His Lordship—A copy ought to have been furnished you. At all events, I should be in a much better position to know what is the proper course to take as to costs when I know who is causing the difficulty about the translation. Your client knows Persian perfectly well and it is much easier for him to get a translation than it is for the plaintiffs, who do not know Persian, and if more opportunity—

Mr. Robinson—It is their case and not ours.

His Lordship—I know; therefore I should like to know before I make an order what is the proper translation.

Mr. Robinson—As set out in our affidavit.

His Lordship—You will be able to address the judge and point out to him that it was plaintiffs' duty to produce a translation to-day and that they did not do so, and that you are entitled to your costs. Without expressing any opinion on my part differing from such a view I must leave the question for him to decide when he sees what the real translation is. I think that is the proper course to adopt.

Mr. Robinson—We are prepared to prove our translation.

Mr. Francis—Really, what is the use of talking? I can only apologise for having given your Lordship so much trouble to-day and for detaining you in Court almost uselessly so many hours.

Mr. Robinson—You ought to pay for the indulgence.

His Lordship—I should not be surprised if you get the judge to make the plaintiffs pay.

Mr. Robinson—If I am here they probably will, my Lord. If I am not there will be no one else to speak.

His Lordship—The judge will be in a better position to decide on this matter when he knows what the translation is. If it turns out that your translation is correct he will probably give you costs.

Mr. Robinson—Suppose he says there is substantially no difference between the translations? (Laughter.)

His Lordship adjourned the case *sine die* and made the following note in his book—"I should have given the costs of the day to the defendant, but I thought the judge who will decide the issues will be in a better position to decide the question of costs when he knows whether the translation sworn to by the defendant in his affidavit of the 8th July, paragraph 8, is correct."

ON STONECUTTS' ISLAND WITH A CAMERA.

GERMAN OFFICERS RECEIVE THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

At the Police Court on the 5th May, before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Albert Harsowitz, the Captain of the German mail steamer *Hohenzollern*, and Max Rudolph, the doctor on the steamer, were again brought up charged with entering the field works and fortifications of Stonecutters' Island on the 2nd inst. without written permission. Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted, and Mr. H. L. Denny defended.

Mr. Denny asked for the exact nature of the charges.

Mr. Johnson said the first charge would be for landing on Stonecutters' Island without a written order from the Colonial Secretary or the Officer Commanding Her Majesty's troops in the colony, contrary to section 1 of Ordinance 11 of 1889, and the second charge was made under Ordinance 1 of 1895, and it was for being in the immediate vicinity of the field works or fortifications with a photographic apparatus with the intention of contravening section 3 of the Ordinance.

Mr. Denny—In respect to the first charge there can be no doubt that the defendants did land at Stonecutters'?

His Worship—First charge admitted.

Mr. Denny—I ask your Worship not to take it that I admit any intention of offending in any way.

His Worship—Do you admit they had no order?

Mr. Denny—Yes, certainly, I admit they landed at Stonecutters' without an order from the Colonial Secretary or the Officer Commanding the district. Of course I shall show your Worship why they landed.

Mr. Johnson—As the first charge is practically admitted I shall, as far as possible, confine the evidence to the second charge and to explain that I shall have to refer to section 3 of the Ordinance, which says—"From and after the passing of this Ordinance it shall not be lawful for any person, whether a British subject or an alien, to make any photograph of any battery, field work, or fortification or any portion thereof within the colony of Hongkong or the waters thereof without having previously obtained the permission in writing of the Governor." That meant they were not to make a photograph. The 5th section said—"Any person found within the immediate vicinity of any battery, field work, or fortification in Hongkong with photographic materials or apparatus in his possession with the intention of contravening the provisions of section 3 of this Ordinance, &c." It will be for your Worship to decide whether the accused were in the immediate vicinity of the fortifications with the intention of making photographs. I will now call the evidence.

Michael Daly said—I am a gunner in the Royal Artillery stationed at Stonecutters' Island. I remember last Saturday, the 2nd inst. I was sentry in the afternoon at 2.45 at Stonecutters' guard room, which is near the western fortification outside the fort. I saw the defendants, whom I recognise, coming up towards the guard room. I stopped them about

three yards from the guard room and told them to wait until I called the non-commissioned officer of the guard. I called that officer. The second defendant (the doctor) was carrying a hand camera.

By Mr. Denny—There is a straight road up from the beach to where the sentry box is, and the defendants came up that road. The defendants did not attempt to run away. I do not know whether anyone else spoke to them. I did not see anyone on a verandah. The barracks face the guard room at a distance of about three yards. I could not see a boat from where I was.

By his Worship—I did not see the defendants land and I do not know where they came from. I could not see the beach from my post.

William Brown—I am acting bombardier in the Royal Artillery stationed at Stonecutters'. Last Saturday afternoon, about 2.45, I was in charge of Stonecutters' regimental guard and I was in the guard room, where the last witness was sentry. It is at the foot of the western fort, which is about 200 yards away. My attention was called by the last witness to the two defendants coming up from the north shore. When I first saw them they were on the pathway about two feet from the verandah near the guard room. The path on which they were leads to the south shore battery, and another path branches off to the western fort. The second defendant was carrying the camera in court. I asked them if they knew they were not allowed on the island and they said they did not. I took the camera and detained the men and then sent to the acting sergeant-major.

By Mr. Denny—The defendants were dressed in dark trousers and white jackets and "cheesecutter" caps. The band on each cap was plain and did not have any mark upon it. I do not know the German mail flag. The caps did not have an anchor and key upon them. I did not see the boat in which the defendants came nor the quartermaster in the boat. One defendant said he was the captain and the other the doctor of a German mail steamer. I did not ask what was in the camera, which the doctor was carrying quite openly. There is a notice board on the path leading from the beach. There is not a notice board on the north beach and nothing to prevent anyone landing. Soldiers living on the island have a boat there and it was on the beach that afternoon. It is a six-oared boat.

By his Worship—The words at the top of the notice board are—"Access to these works strictly prohibited." The defendants would have to pass that board on the path they came up.

Alfred Trewitt—I am sergeant in the Royal Artillery stationed at Stonecutters' Island. I was there last Saturday afternoon, at 2.45 p.m. I was sent for by the last witness and I went to the guard room. The barracks are about forty yards from the guard room. A path runs down between the beach and the guard room. I saw the defendants in the guard room and they had a detective camera with them. I sent for the Police and a Sikh policeman came. I could not make him understand English and therefore would not hand them over to him. I sent a gunner for the European inspector at Yaumati.

By Mr. Denny—Each defendant wore a white jacket and black trousers and a peak cap. I handed them over to the sergeant of police. There was a badge in front of each cap. The badge was an anchor and key. I did not ask them any questions. They had the "machine" and that was quite enough for me. The defendants were handed over to the Police about six o'clock. There is no sentry on the north shore, but there is one posted on the south shore. We have a six-oared boat, which is kept on the beach. I have not heard that anyone spoke to the defendants from the verandah.

By his Worship—The south shore sentry must prevent any unauthorised person from landing there.

Lieutenant Norman Buzzard—I am in charge of the troops at Stonecutters'. The guard room is about 100 yards from the west fort gate as the crow flies and about 600 yards from the south shore battery. The pathway spoken of bifurcates, one road leading to the west fort and the other to the south battery. There is a gate at the west battery, but not at the south battery.

Sergeant Scott—I am stationed at Yaumati. About six p.m. on Saturday afternoon I went to

Stonecutters' Island and saw the two defendants in the guard room and also the camera. I took the defendants into custody and conveyed them by launch to Yaumati, where I handed them over to Inspector Butlin.

By Mr. Dennys—The first defendant told me he was the captain of the German mail and the second defendant said he was the doctor. Before I got the launch I went with defendants to the north shore, where I saw a boat with two Malays in it. The captain blew a whistle, when a European quartermaster came up. He had gold letters on his cap. I cannot say whether the letters were "N. D. L."

By his Worship—The quartermaster came down from the direction of the barracks.

Inspector Butlin—Last Saturday evening, about eight p.m., the defendants were handed over to me by Sergeant Scott. I also received the camera. I told them the charge against them and had them searched. The second defendant claimed the camera as his.

By Mr. Dennys—I did not question the defendants, who did not say anything.

Lieutenant William Thompson—I am at present adjutant in the Royal Engineers and have been in charge of the Royal Engineers' photograph school. I received the camera on the 4th inst. and gave orders for the plates inside to be developed. There were twelve plates altogether and five of them had been used.

By Mr. Dennys—I produce the prints of the five photographs. One represents a Chinese tomb with, apparently, the captain of the *Hohenzollern* sitting on the top; the second represents a buffalo ploughing; the third represents a Chinese village; the fourth paddy fields at the foot of a valley, and the fifth other paddy fields. There is nothing in them in any way connected with fortifications.

Mr. Johnson—That, your Worship, concludes the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Dennys—The defendants admit to the fullest extent that they were at Stonecutters' Island without permission from the Governor or Colonial Secretary or anybody else. The captain says that when he came to Hongkong—he only joined the ship very recently and I have the articles in Court, if your Worship wishes to see them—but the only regulations that he has on board and the only thing he knows about Stonecutters' Island is that which is mentioned in the port regulations under the heading of "Harbour limits." "On the East.—A line drawn from the northernmost point of the Island of Hongkong to the N.E. boundary of British Kowloon. On the West.—A line drawn from the westernmost point of Hongkong to the western side of Green Island continue to western point of Stonecutters' Island, thence to north point of Stonecutters' Island continue to N.W. boundary of British Kowloon." That is all the regulations say and as far as he knew there was no earthly reason why he should not land at Stonecutters' just as he might land at Green Island or any of the other islands round about. The doctor is an amateur photographer and has been here only a short time. I will call one gentleman resident in Hongkong who will tell you that the doctor was simply using this photographic camera for the purpose of taking bits of Hongkong scenery. Neither of these gentlemen knew they were committing a breach of the law in landing, and can your Worship believe they were going—as must be suggested in a case of this sort—can you believe that these people were going there as spies when they went off in a sailing boat with the name of the steamer upon it and with two Malay seamen and a European quartermaster, all of whom wore the uniform of the German Mail Company at the time, and the defendants themselves had on their caps the crest of the North German Lloyd Company? They had not the faintest idea of doing anything wrong. They landed at the beach and saw a boat belonging to the soldiers and they walked up to the barracks. As they were passing the barracks a man said "Are you going to take photographs?" The doctor said "Yes," and the man said "All right, can do." They walked up as far as the sentry without having the faintest notion that they were doing wrong, otherwise do you think they would have walked by the sentry in that way? The doctor was carrying the camera openly and you have seen the contents of the camera and there is nothing

in the least suggestive of fortifications in them. Of course a technical offence is admitted in that they landed at Stonecutters' without permission. We know that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but it is utterly impossible to expect that perfect stranger can come here and know that Ordinance 11 of 1895 provided that no one should land without permission. Before any punishment is inflicted in a case like this it ought to be proved that every precaution was taken to show people who were intending to land that they had no business to land on Stonecutters'. A notice ought to be posted along the shore or some other means provided to notify the fact that that island is different from the land opposite. Nothing of that sort was done and these men, seeing a nice little beach with a boat on it, went alongside and walked straight up to the barracks. I submit there is nothing whatever before you to show any intention on the part of the defendants to use the photographic apparatus for the purpose of taking the forts. As the evidence has shown, this sentry box is a hundred yards as the crow flies from the door of the west fort and it is high up above the guard house, so they cannot possibly have done any harm up to that time. I will now call Mr. Spatz.

Leopold Spatz said—I am an assistant in H. H. Kirch and Co. and have been in Hongkong three years. I know the second defendant, Dr. Rudolph. I was introduced to him last Friday evening by the third officer of the *Hohenzollern* and they came to my house and we passed the evening together. On the day when the *Sachsen* left Hongkong the doctor photographed the vessel and on Sunday he promised to come with me in order to photograph pretty scenery in Hongkong. On Saturday evening I had a letter saying that it was too dull for photographing and he was going sailing on Sunday instead.

H. Schmidt, quartermaster on board the *Hohenzollern*, spoke to the defendants going off for a sail on Saturday afternoon with witness and two Malays on board, when they landed at Stonecutters' Island. Witness could not see any fortifications. The Malays and witness wore their uniforms and the defendants wore caps bearing the crest of the North German Lloyd Company. There was a good breeze blowing at the time and all attention had to be given to the sails. Witness had been out here fifteen months running between Hongkong and Yokohama. The defendants had recently joined the *Hohenzollern*, and the captain came out as chief officer of the *Sachsen*.

Mr. Dennys—I again draw your Worship's attention to the port regulations. Of course you are familiar with them and also familiar with the fact that this is a book which is given to every captain as he comes into the harbour, but there is not a single word from one end to the other to warn people that they must not land in this part of the harbour. The captain knew nothing whatever about landing at Stonecutters' being forbidden. He landed and walked straight up to the guard room. He landed in uniform and his seamen wore uniform. The steamer was lying at Kowloon wharf and the wind was favourable for Stonecutters' Island and it was most natural for them to land there. The fact that these photographs have been developed shows what their tastes are in this respect, and that should certainly be in the doctor's favour. Mr. Spatz, who has lived in the colony three years, knows that the doctor was looking for pretty scenery and that he was very fond of taking scenery. I submit that the defendants should be let off with a nominal penalty, as in the last case of a similar kind, when the defendants were fined \$3. This case is totally different from the one which created such a sensation some time back. In that case the officers of a foreign man-of-war landed and had sketches of fortifications in their possession, but in the present case there is nothing in the way of a sketch of forts, although there were five photographs inside the box.

His Worship—Have you anything to say, Mr. Johnson?

Mr. Johnson—I leave the case entirely in your Worship's hands. Your Worship has the facts fully before you.

His Worship—In a case of this sort, as Mr. Dennys pointed out, either a nominal fine or the full penalty ought to be inflicted. The defence set up is that the port regulations do not show that landing is not allowed. The defendants went sailing past one wharf on the north side and they would pass two if they went on the south side, and they could see the guns bristling out of the forts. If they had been natives of almost any other country but Germany there would perhaps be a possibility of their making a mistake in landing near fortifications. We are told they landed on the island and walked straight past a notice board which prohibited access to the forts. The photographs have been developed and certainly they have no bearing whatever on the fortifications, but it is not likely that any man intending to take photographs of fortifications would carry other photographs of fortifications with him. It is clear the man had the intention to photograph, and I do not think on the evidence before me that there is any doubt about it. The first charge is admitted and each defendant will have to go to gaol for three months with hard labour. The second charge against the captain is dismissed, but the doctor is on that charge sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour, his sentences to run concurrently.

Mr. Dennys—I ask your Worship in this case to let the defendants out on bail pending the time for appeal—ten days. Your Worship sees it is a case upon which I may think it necessary to appeal.

His Worship—But—

Mr. Dennys—I have just had instructions to appeal, your Worship.

His Worship—You have?

Mr. Dennys—Yes.

His Worship—Very well, then, bail in \$1,200 each.

Mr. Dennys—I ask your Worship to allow the doctor to take his camera away.

His Worship said it would not be confiscated, as it contained nothing illegal.

THE INCENDIARY FIRE AT PRAYA WEST.

At the Police Court on the 1st May, before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, the five men who were arrested in connection with the incendiary fire at 48, Praya West, were placed in the dock on a charge of arson.

Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor) appeared to prosecute, Mr. H. L. Dennys watched the case on behalf of the Northern and Magdeburg Fire Insurance Offices, and Mr. J. Hastings appeared for the defence.

Mr. Johnson said it had been decided to withdraw the charge against three of the defendants, who were accordingly discharged, and the case against the remaining two, who are the masters of the shop, was proceeded with.

Mr. J. L. Prosser, Government Surveyor, produced a plan of the building; and photographs of the premises, internally and externally, were also produced.

Ip Wa, a rice pounder, one of the three men discharged, said he was formerly in the employ of the prisoners, who were the masters of the Kwong Sun Loong shop, 48, Praya West. On the night of the 21st April he was sleeping on a bed near a rice pounder on the ground floor. One of the defendants slept on the ground floor, two coolies in a cockloft near Winglok Street, and when witness went to bed the other defendant was writing. The shop books were kept in the shop. He went to bed at 9.30 and was in the kitchen shortly after nine o'clock. There was a nut oil lamp left burning as usual in the cookhouse, and there was a jar containing twenty cetties of nut oil in the shop. That was all the nut oil in the shop. On the first floor there was a kerosine lamp and the tin of kerosine was near the nut oil. There was only one tin of kerosine in the house. There were three or four tubs in the kitchen when he went to bed and several bundles of firewood were kept outside and inside the kitchen. One of the defendants woke him up that night by calling out "fire."

By Mr. Hastings—The man who woke witness had his sleeping clothes on and looked as if he had just got out of bed. At that time there was no fire on the ground floor. When witness

got into the street he saw fire coming from the head of the staircase on the first floor. Joss paper and joss sticks were kept underneath a bed on the second floor and were used daily. They had been kept there since last year. The shop dealt in firewood and rice. There was over \$1,000 worth of rice and \$10 worth of firewood on the premises. Witness saw only one tin of kerosine in the shop, but he thought there were two old tins there as well. Passengers from California sometimes slept in the shop and they brought a large quantity of baggage with them. He had heard that the first defendant had a quarrel with a rice pounder named Lei Tai respecting wages. He did not hear Lei Tai threaten anything. The tubs were used for washing.

By Mr. Johnson—Lei Tai left in consequence of the quarrel and must be at work as a rice pounder in another shop.

The two other released men were called and they gave similar evidence, after which the case, which is likely to occupy a long time, was remanded.

LAUNCH AT THE KOWLOON DOCKS.

Some fifteen months ago we gave our readers particulars of the launching of a composite gunboat built by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. to the order of the Spanish Government, and on Saturday morning our local enterprise most successfully launched another vessel of larger dimensions also constructed for the same constituents. As the vessel slid into the water the ceremony of naming her the *Villalobos* was performed by Miss Contrera, the daughter of the Spanish Consul at Amoy, in the orthodox manner, after which a distinguished company, including Senor Don José de Navarro, Consul for Spain, Commander Padrihan, I.S.N., Messrs. G. Rubio, M. Munio, and others joined in drinking the usual felicitous toasts.

The following are the principal dimensions and particulars of the vessel:—Length over all 155 ft., breadth 23 ft., depth moulded 11 ft., tonnage about 370 tons. The engines are of triple expansion type and the diameters of the cylinders are 13, 21, and 35 inches with a stroke of 24 inches. Her estimated horse power is 500. Steam will be supplied by two single ended circular multitubular boilers having a working pressure of 170 lbs. per square inch. The guaranteed speed on a two hours' trial is 11½ knots and she will carry enough bunker coal to steam 2,500 knots at full speed.

THE REDUCTION OF TELEGRAPHIC RATES.

The following letter from the Telegraph Companies to the Chamber of Commerce has been forwarded to us for publication:—

The Eastern Extension Anstralias & China Telegraph Company, Limited.	The Great Northern Telegraph Company of Copenhagen.
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Hongkong Station,
2nd May, 1896

R. C. WILCOX,

Secretary, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.
Sir,—With reference to previous correspondence, I am pleased to inform you that the question of reduction of local tariffs has been for a long time under consideration, and that a decision has been come to which will involve considerable reductions of rates on certain local traffic, affecting at present only the cable system south of Hongkong; and it is hoped that later the same principle may be extended to certain classes of local traffic affecting other Telegraph Administrations with whom negotiations are now proceeding.

I shall address the Chamber further when fuller details are to hand.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. M. BECK,
For Manager in China,
E. E. A. & C. Telegraph Co.

The following correspondence has been published at Singapore:—

THE E. E. A. AND C. TELEGRAPH CO. TO THE SINGAPORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Sir,—In continuation of correspondence and recent conversation on the subject of telegraph rates I have great pleasure in informing you that my Company are now engaged in revising—with a view to their reduction—the telegraph rates to adjacent countries and stations. This revision has been instituted in order to bring about, as far as possible, uniformity per mileage, and will apply to what we may term local telegraph rates such as between:—

The three Straits stations, Straits and Java, Straits and Cochin-China, Straits and India, India and China.

The reductions in many cases will be considerable and it is hoped they will take effect from the 1st of July next. Those between India and China may be somewhat later, on account of negotiations with other administrations. It will be readily understood that all such reductions mean a considerable loss to my Company, but they venture to bring them forward to meet public requirements and in the hope that the volume of traffic will be greatly stimulated thereby.

I trust that this action will be duly appreciated by the Chamber of Commerce and the public generally.—I am, &c.,

W. GRIGOR TAYLOR.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO THE TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Chamber of Commerce,
Singapore, 24th April, 1896.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter under yesterday's date informing me that your Company is now engaged in revising—with a view to their reduction—the telegraph rates to adjacent countries and stations: that this revision will apply to what may be termed local telegraph rates, the reduction in many of which will be considerable, and that it will probably take effect from the 1st July next. I have to thank you for your courtesy in thus early communicating the information, and desire on behalf of the Chamber to express their appreciation of the concession, which will doubtless have the effect of stimulating traffic between the various stations. This spontaneous action of the Company leads the Chamber to anticipate their valuable assistance at the International Telegraph Conference to be held at Buda Pesth in the course of the year in revising the existing high tariff with European countries. I send you copy of the Chamber's report for 1895 and beg reference to the table in appendix H indicating the variations in rates during the last twenty years. It will be observed that the present sterling cost somewhat exceeds that of 1876. I propose sending this correspondence to the papers for general information.—I am, &c.,

T. SHELFORD,
Chairman.

HONGKONG POLO CLUB.

The annual dinner of the Polo Club took place at the Hongkong Club on Tuesday evening, 28th April. The Hon. T. H. Whitehead, the senior member of the Polo Club, was in the chair, and Captain P. de S. Burney, R.A., was vice-chairman. Several members were unavoidably prevented from being present. After doing justice to an exceptionally well cooked dinner, the toast of "The Queen" was loyally pledged and enthusiastically honoured.

The CHAIRMAN, midst much cheering, said—Gentlemen, I fully realize the great privilege and honour you have conferred by asking me to be chairman at this jovial reunion. Doubtless your selection for this responsible position was prompted by a desire to do reverence unto "age," but let me assure you that though when compared with most of you I may be getting on in years, yet the exercise which the manly game yields enables me to retain the best of good health and to feel much younger than men really younger in years but who do not join in our health giving recreation. (Prolonged cheers). The good that has been done in India, in the Far East, at home, and in every British colony by the national game of cricket and the most noble game of polo has been incalculable. I am very firmly convinced that it is the duty

of every man to see that everything possible is done to maintain in their purest form athletic sports and health giving pastimes, which have so materially contributed to the building up of our great empire and its ever increasing population, now upwards of 350 millions of people. (Loud cheering.) It is most appropriate that the "hard hitting" Captain Burney, of the Royal Artillery, so worthily fills the vice-chair on this occasion. His doing so calls to mind the happy recollection that our Club was founded in 1886 by the gallant Major Walter B. Fletcher—(cheers)—a distinguished officer in the Artillery branch of Her Majesty's service. Among those now present I think I am the only member who helped Fletcher to bring polo here into existence, and he nursed the club with unceasing care and devotion. Through patience, perseverance, and tact he witnessed his baby grow in strength and health, and develop into a robust child. The child is proud of its father, and if he had been able to witness the recent tournament on Causeway for the challenge cup so kindly presented by Mr. F. H. May, and the brilliant play of Captain Loveband, I feel sure that the Major would not have been ashamed of his offspring. In this continuously changing community the Club from time to time has lost many of its playing members, among whom we can reckon the very pick of the best men ever stationed in the colony, and who in India and elsewhere in Her Majesty's dominions have rendered conspicuous service. The friendships formed and the memory of those rare good fellows who are a distinct credit to the Anglo-Saxon race will remain fresh with us throughout our lives. The far-famed "Steelbacks" (58th regiment) gave us the hard hitting Major, now Colonel Churchill, the brave and manly Major John Collinson, now in command of the Soudanese battalion at Akasheh, the slayer of three tigers in as many minutes in the neighbourhood of Amoy, and ever to the front when fun or fighting was the order of the hour; and the athletic Bramwell, who was ever a sure "back." We also had the soldierly Captain Fred DesVœux, of Indian renown and of the dashing Carbineers, whose excellent play commanded general admiration, and the handsome Slingsby Bethell, whose gallantry attracted to the ground a goodly attendance of the fair sex, including widows, with whom he was deservedly popular. There was also John Armstrong, whose fine form and good all round play reminds us of the neat hitting and smart form of our present champion, Captain Loveband, who is always to be found wherever the ball is; the genial "Kit Craddock," of Her Majesty's navy, who did much good work on dear old "Barebones;" Captain the Hon. John St. Aubyn, of the Grenadier Guards, who scored many a well earned goal; the sporting Major Joe Holliday; Captain Glubb, R.E., a brilliant player, who had had much practice in India; Mr. Cyril Platt, a hard rider and a daring horseman; while Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, Mr. Landale, Mr. John Hastings, Mr. Jardine Gresson, and others, have rendered good service. The departure of the revered founder of the club caused a big gap in our ranks, but the sturdy Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders added considerable strength to the club. They gave us the sporting Major, now Colonel, Hainay, who was celebrated for his excellent seat in the saddle, Captains Robinson, Cavendish, and Paterson, and Messrs. Boyd, Kirk, Grant, Gore, and Campbell. They were succeeded by the Shropshire Light Infantry, including Major Lyle, a very sure "hit," Captains de Teissier, Buchanan, and Moore, Messrs. Howell, Forbes, Ruck-Keene, Benson, Strick, Smythe, and Meynell; while from time to time the Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers, the Army Service Corps, and the Army Medical Staff have produced good talent. In addition, the latter has given us the famous African lion slayer, Surgeon Captain Edey. (Loud cheers). We also had, from north of the Tweed, the genial Captain Murray, of the North Lancashire Regiment, who on many occasions excelled himself; and the Hon. F. H. May, one of our original members, and an indefatigable player, now in the old country, but whom we hope to soon welcome back in our midst. It is to be deplored that the civilian element are now so slow to turn out. Without the invaluable assistance of our military friends

it would be well nigh impossible to keep the Club alive. Each successive regiment has, however, strongly supported the noble game, and proved themselves more sporting than their predecessors, if that were possible. No regiment in my experience has done more to promote the interests of polo, and sport in all its branches, than the gallant Rifle Brigade, whom we are happy to have now with us. (Cheers.) With the cordial co-operation of the military we shall live in hope of being able to keep the ball rolling, thus maintain our health and strength, and cause us to retain our handsome figures in this the trying Far East. The presence of the ladies on the ground not only adds a great charm to the picturesque surroundings but it causes emulation in the hearts of the players: it makes the old feel gay and the young to feel strong, and forms a strong incentive to increased endeavours and improvement in the play. (Loud cheering.) Polo is most useful for developing the attributes so necessary in man, viz., eye, hand, a firm seat, courage, activity, pluck, keenness, determination, &c., &c.; in short, the exercise which the noble game yields has worked wonders on many a weak frame. Its effects are more bracing and far more lasting than the best tonics medical science can prescribe. It develops and hardens the muscle, strengthens the nerve, and qualifies man for the discharge of duties and renders him capable of performing better work than he otherwise could do. I can conscientiously say that from polo exercise I to-day feel younger and better than when our Club was started ten years ago. As Mr. Jorrocks said of hunting, so I can say of Hongkong polo, it is the king of sports, with considerably less than twenty per cent. of the dangers of hunting, as the China pony is distinctly averse to colliding. It is with the utmost confidence and heartiness that I ask you to drink in bumpers "Success to the Polo Club," the Club under whose auspices "Sky meetings" and "Gymkhanas" were here introduced, and to couple the toast with the name of our champion player, the popular and genial Captain Loveband. (Prolonged cheers, followed by "For he's a jolly good fellow.")

Captain LOVEBAND in reply said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, being Captain of the winning team in the recent tournament for Mr. May's challenge cup that we have just finished, I have been detailed to return thanks to the toast of the "Polo Club" proposed by our worthy Chairman. We were fortunate enough to just win the cup on the stroke of time. My play has been too much eulogised. As you all know, I was very well mounted, and a pony is three-fourths of the game, but of course a certain amount of eye is also requisite. If you are on a pony that won't go up to the ball, no one, however good, can hit the ball. The rest of my team were not quite so well mounted, Mr. Nugent bring condemned to play a very indifferent pony belonging to myself. I agree with Mr. Whitehead that we should like to see more civilian members. (Cheers.) Several of them keep ponies simply to ride day after day along the Shaukiwan Road, which I think must soon get very monotonous. Why not bring them on to the polo ground? One pony is quite enough to start with. Turn up with one pony and trust to luck to get another mount. Most of us here to-night have been on the backs of Mr. Whitehead's ponies, who is ever ready to mount a horseless polo player, and I am sure we are all deeply indebted to him for his great kindness. Some make the excuse that they can't afford to play, but from what I hear the men in the various Banks and business firms in this colony have no complaints as regards their pay and are in fact very well off. I am afraid that there are men here whose chits in the Club bar in a short space of time would buy a polo pony. Others say they have not the time. I should think life hardly worth living if I could not spend one hour a day in recreation of sorts—a man cannot work properly unless he does. (Cheers.) Lastly, a very common remark is, "The China pony is not worth playing on." Well, I say if a man is keen on polo he will play on a donkey if he can't get anything better. (Hurrah.) I have now spent a very happy year in Hongkong and have formed a very good impression of it, but I am pretty certain that if I did not play polo I should think it a pretty poor place. (Cheers.)

Captain BURNLEY rose and, after referring to the well contested competition for Mr. May's challenge cup and the many advantages which the members derive from such matches, proposed in a humorous speech success to "Sport." No better supporter of steeple-chasing and sport in all its phases than Colonel The O'Gorman could be found, whose name he had very great pleasure in coupling with the toast.

Colonel THE O'GORMAN said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, it is a most unexpected honour to be called upon to respond to the toast of "Sport," embracing as it does the many grand games in which it is an Englishman's boast that he alone plays in that spirit of honour and fair play which no other countryman can rival. (Cheers.) The immortal Jorrocks said that "untin" is the sport of kings, the "himage" of war without its guilt and 25 per cent. of its danger. Well, we cannot have hunting here, but we have polo, which is the next best thing, and if the word "polo" be substituted for "untin" you have the sport of kings at hand, twice or thrice each week. A fine manly game it is, which makes horsemen of us, maintains health and strength in all climates, and keeps us fit for the performance of our duties in civil or military life. You gentlemen whose youth and circumstances enable you to enjoy this grand sport are most fortunate in having our Chairman as a player, because he instils into the management that energy and ability for which he is well known, and moreover has generally a pony to spare for a friend who is keen but unfortunate in his steed. There is, however, a branch of sport which is sadly neglected in Hongkong, namely, "steeple-chasing;" there is no just reason for it. We have an excellent race meeting, and an off-day with a steeplechase included in the programme, yet to the shame of Hongkong there were then but three entries, I believe, certainly an insufficient number to fill the event. With the large number of good riders in the colony, who cannot be accused of fearing a fall, such an unfortunate circumstance will I feel sure not recur, and I hope that in the forthcoming gymkhanas we shall have many hunting events and good fields on each occasion. Gentlemen, I thank you for the honour you have done me and trust that "Sport" may here and elsewhere live long and prosper. (Cheers.)

Mr. JOHN HASTINGS, in responding to the toast of the civilians, which was proposed by Captain Bethune, said that without the assistance of the military element in Hongkong he was afraid polo would die a natural death; and not only was their assistance necessary in keeping the Club alive, but they showed them how to play the game. Since the arrival of their friend Captain Loveband in this colony he had given them an idea of how polo should be played, and he would say this, that Captain Loveband was one of the straightest and the hardest hitters who had been seen on Causeway Bay for many a long day—(cheers)—and that stroke of his, which they had all seen, at the finish of the tournament, when the ball rose some 30 feet into the air and descended right in the middle of the goal, was one to be remembered. (Applause.) He hoped, however, that, with the example before them of their worthy Chairman, who was again as much at home on a polo pony as he was in the Legislative Council at question time, and that was saying a good deal, they would soon be able to put a civilian team into the field which would hold its own with the military teams and beat them, too—(applause)—as they had done in former years.

A number of other toasts and several songs followed, and in acknowledging the toast of his health the Chairman directed the attention of members to a recent work containing explicit and sound advice on "Modern Polo" by E. D. Miller, late 17th Lancers, and edited by M. H. Hayes, F.R.C.V.S., who is well known in China. The book is published by Thacker and Co., Calcutta, and well deserves careful study.

The proceedings, harmonious to a degree throughout, terminated with the singing of "Auld lang syne."

It will be fully a month before the *Cass, Smith, and Sin Fokein* will be placed on the Shanghai-Formosa line; they are to be docked and overhauled in the meantime.—*Mercury*.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

This competition resulted, as was generally expected, in a victory for Dr. Lowson. During the play on Saturday the most interest was naturally taken in the two players who were leading. There was a very fair attendance of spectators, amongst them several ladies, who appeared to take a lively interest in the proceedings. Owing to his fit of bad play on Friday afternoon Captain Eccles had a difficult task before him, as when commencing play on Saturday Dr. Lowson had a lead of 10 strokes. To make up 10 strokes against a player better than himself was of course an impossibility, unless something extraordinary happened. It is unnecessary to go into detail on a medal round; it will suffice to say that at the ninth hole Captain Eccles was 44 to Dr. Lowson's 45. Dr. Lowson won the next two holes with two 4's against two 5's. Nos. 3, 4, and 5 were halved in 4. No. 6 was won by Captain Eccles 5 to 6. No. 7 was won by Dr. Lowson in 5 to 6. No. 8 was won by Captain Eccles 3 to 5 and at this point Captain Eccles was one stroke better on the day than his opponent. But at the 18th hole disaster overtook the soldier and the result was a "9," which played the very mischief with a good score, and gave the Doctor a further lead of four strokes, the two scores for the last nine holes being 41 and 45. Those spectators who followed the match certainly had an opportunity of seeing a good game of golf, as, barring at about 4 or 5 holes, where all the strokes were lost, the play was of a very high order. All that was possible had been done to put the course and greens in good playing order, and there was little to complain about on that head. The approach shots are always difficult on this course, owing to the long grass round the greens and the smallness of the greens themselves, so that you can always consider a "4" at any hole quite good enough.

We must heartily congratulate Dr. Lowson on his victory and wish him all good luck and prosperity in his married life. We shall expect to see accounts of his playing at home and we feel sure that he will fully uphold the credit of the Hongkong Golf Club.

THE SCORE.

	1st	2nd	3rd	
	rd.	rd.	rd.	Ttl.
Dr. J. Lowson	84	86	85	255
Capt. W. V. Eccles, R.B.	88	92	89	269
Mr. G. Stewart	92	93	91	276
Mr. C. E. Hume	96	92	100	288
Capt. Rumsey	104	93	96	293
Mr. W. M. Thompson, R.E.	99	95	101	295
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	104	99	94	297

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The Short Range Cup and Spoons were shot for on Saturday afternoon over the 500 and 600 yards distances. Colour-Sergeant A. Smith, R.B., won the Cup for the first time with a total of 62, the Spoons being taken by Petty Officer Bishop, R.N., Captain Ferguson, R.B., and Colour-Sergeant A. Smith, R.B. The following were the best scores:—

	500 yds.	600 yds.	Allowance for M.H. Rifle.	H' Cup.	Total.
P.O. Bishop, R.N.	33	25	6	2	66
Cr. Sergt. A. Smith, R.B.	32	27	—	3	62
Captain Ferguson, R.B.	33	28	—	—	61
Major Pemberton, R.B.	23	30	—	4	57
Major Wrottesley, R.E.	33	26	—	4	55
Inspector Butlin	23	22	6	3	54

H.K.V.C. FIELD BATTERY.

The second spoon competition took place on Saturday at the Police Range. Twenty-one members entered, the highest scores being as under:—

	200	400	500	H' cap. points.	Ttl.
Sergt. McPhail *	27	33	28	—	88
Gunner Stewart	32	30	25	—	87
Gunner Gow *	19	27	24	15	85
Gunner Sutton	20	28	20	15	83
Sergt. Bremner	22	25	22	10	79
Gunner Deas	25	25	16	13	79
Gunner Inglis	27	22	23	6	78
Gunner Melbourne	26	27	19	6	78

* Winners of Spoon.

THE NORTH-CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this Company was held at Shanghai on the 28th April. Mr. E. H. Lavers (Chairman) presided, and there were present, Messrs. D. Brand, E. Davis, H. R. Hearn, C. J. Holliday, W. D. Little, A. McLeod, J. Welch (Directors), A. Ross (Secretary), E. J. Hogg, C. M. Dyce, F. Souther, F. Gove, H. Sylva, W. Lamond, Jr., H. A. J. Macray, Count A. Butler, H. Adams, and W. H. Anderson.

The notice convening the meeting having been read by the Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year 1895 have been before you for some time past, and the formality of reading them will, as usual, be dispensed with. The report is a very full one, and the accounts are so clear and simple that they call for little, if any, explanation. They show that at the close of the first triennial period since its reconstruction, the Company is in a sound and satisfactory position. Our investments, which were depressed in connection with the financial crisis in Australia, have now more than recovered their original values, and the sum of Tls. 10,756 which was set aside from profits to meet the depression, being no longer required for that purpose, has been returned to the working account, in which is also included a profit of Tls. 12,384 on London investments sold during the past year. Further, there is a substantial appreciation in the existing securities, amounting upon a moderate estimate to Tls. 25,000 in excess of the values now placed upon them in the balance sheet, and to shareholders with a knowledge of local affairs it is hardly necessary to say that our property in Shanghai, which is stated separately, is very moderately valued among our assets. These are grounds upon which the position of the Company may be regarded as satisfactory, and the directors would also have been glad to have been able to lay before the shareholders an equally favourable account of the past year's working. The income of the Company exceeds that of the previous year by Tls. 183,000, but one-third of this increase is due to the difference (between 3s. 4d. and 3s. 0d.) in the book rates of exchange for the years 1894 and 1895, and on the other side of the working account the sterling losses and charges are similarly affected; the apparent increase in the London expenses is due entirely to exchange, the sterling amount for 1895 being really £300 less than for 1894. The underwriting result is disappointing, not through any specially heavy individual losses, but owing to an unusually large number of minor casualties, the claims upon which have mounted up in the aggregate, and it was only on the eve of the issue of the report that telegraphic advice reached us of our largest loss, by a vessel homeward bound from Calcutta, which compelled the directors to reduce the contributors' bonus to 10 per cent. instead of 15 per cent. which it had been formally decided to recommend. It is to be hoped that our experience of the past year may prove exceptional and that at the next general meeting there will be better results to lay before the shareholders. The first business of the meeting is to pass the report and accounts, but before putting the formal resolution to that effect, any questions you may have to submit I shall be glad to reply to as far as I may be able to do so.

Mr. E. J. HOGG said he presumed the sterling investments stood at what they cost, and the Tls. 12,000 odd appreciation was on the investments realised.

The CHAIRMAN said that was so.

Mr. HOGG said that of course they knew their property in Shanghai was worth considerably more than it stood at in the accounts, and he desired to know whether the Board had arrived at any idea of its value in the light of sales which had taken place in the immediate vicinity. He also enquired the value of the London property.

Mr. D. BRAND said the value of the London property could only be ascertained by paying for it, the expense of which the directors had not thought fit to incur.

Mr. HOGG said it was expressly in view of an offer that he asked the value of the Shanghai property.

The CHAIRMAN replied with regard to the value of the Shanghai property, that it had received the consideration of the directors and when the question was under discussion the directors' idea was the property was worth about Tls. 160,000. He begged to propose that the report and accounts as now presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. H. R. HEARN seconded.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Proposed by the CHAIRMAN, and seconded by Mr. A. McLEOD, it was agreed that the following distribution of profits for the year 1895 be now declared:—Interest at the rate of 10 per cent. upon the paid-up capital, payable in Shanghai at the exchange of 3s. 0½d. per tael; a bonus of 10 per cent. on contributory premia.

The third resolution was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. D. BRAND, and adopted—That the directors be and are hereby authorised to close up the accounts of the year 1895 as soon as they find it expedient to do so, and that the balance of profit (if any) be applied in such manner as the Court of Directors may deem conducive to the interests of the Company.

Mr. C. M. DYCE proposed, Mr. E. J. HOGG seconded, and it was agreed, that Messrs Brand, Davis, Hearn, Holliday, Lavers, McLeod, and Welch, be elected directors of the Company for the ensuing year, and that their remuneration be Tls. 6,000.

Mr. H. SYLVA proposed and Mr. F. SOUTER seconded that Messrs. White and Bell be re-elected auditors of the Company for the ensuing year.

Carried.

The proceedings then terminated.—N. C. Daily News.

BANK REPORTS.

BANK OF CHINA AND JAPAN, LIMITED.

The report of the Bank of China and Japan, Limited, states that the realisation of the assets of the Old Bank is progressing favourably. The position of the Bank as regards the public on Dec. 31 was:—Liabilities: Fixed Deposits and accrued interest, £751,262; other liabilities, £3,356; total £754,618. Assets: Gold securities, £14,753; silver, £382,146; other, £21,701; in Bank of England at credit of trustees for depositors, £130,731; in transitu, £21,139; capital set aside for new working account, £100,000; total £670,471, showing a deficiency of £84,147. Owing to the appreciation of securities and to old shareholders joining the new Bank, this deficiency has since been so reduced that the instalment of call due on April 2, amounting to about £50,000, is expected to more than cover it. At close of 1894 the Bank's affairs indicated that shareholders might require to provide £300,000 in cash to meet its liabilities; but if the above anticipation proves correct, a total of under £180,000 will suffice. This would leave the remaining four instalments of the call of £3 15s. per share to provide capital for the Bank. In the balance sheet no value has been placed on amount outstanding £87,350 due on 1893-4 call, nor on the liquidator's call of £7 15s. per share on shareholders who have not yet accepted the new scheme £813,600. Legal proceedings are being taken to enforce payment of these calls, and the suits which have been commenced against the Chinese and American and other recalcitrant shareholders will be pushed on with energy. The French courts have already given a decision in the Bank's favour, which induces the Board to expect similar judgments elsewhere, in which case above assets will be of considerable value and lessen still further the probable loss of £180,000 referred to. The final approval of the judge to the scheme of reconstruction was not given until 3rd April, 1895, when it was too late to arrange for the Bank taking a share in exchange business at the opening of the export season in China; indeed active operations did not commence until 1st July. Considering therefore that the accounts cover a period of nine months as regards expenses, and only six months as regards earnings, the small debit balance of £2,438 which

has resulted is not discouraging. The working of the Bank as a going concern has contributed materially to the successful realisation of assets.

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA.

The report of the directors of the Mercantile Bank of India for the year ended 31st December last states:—The net profits, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, and including £8,555 brought forward from last account, amount to £24,818. Out of this sum there has already been paid £4,687, being an interim dividend for the half-year ending June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the "A" shares of the Bank. The directors now recommend a distribution on the "A" shares at the same rate for the second half of the year, and on the "B" shares at 2 per cent. for the year. This will absorb a sum of £12,083 and will leave a balance of £8,047 to be carried forward. The transfer of the leasehold premises formerly occupied by the Bank has been completed, and other convenient and suitable offices secured.

THE DEUTSCHE BANK.

The Deutsche Bank report states:—The net profits of the year 1895, amounting to £570,173, represent 15 per cent. on the paid-up capital, and are to be apportioned as follows:—£375,000 to dividend of 10 per cent. to shareholders, £38,268 to ordinary reserve, £83,539 to directors and managers, £30,500 to superannuation fund and gratuities to staff, £20,000 to additional premises, £22,872 carried forward to new account. From a German banking point of view, the past year, 1895, has yielded more than ordinarily satisfactory results. Whilst peace in Europe remained undisturbed, the struggle between China and Japan occasioned a considerable demand for certain manufactures, and thereby tended in some measure to stimulate European commerce and credit. The troubles in Asiatic Turkey were happily unattended by any directly prejudicial effect on German trade, and the clouds which appeared on the political horizon in connection with the dispute which arose between Great Britain and the United States of America quickly passed away. Under these circumstances greater activity was apparent in trade and industrial circles; the consumption of articles of food and luxury was quickened, and the increase in the output of manufactured goods in turn caused a rise in the prices of many classes of raw produce. This favourable economic situation gave rise to considerable speculation, which, in the latter part of the year, became excessive. The reaction which set in the last two months has, however, only here and there affected certain classes connected with the Bourse.

THE HISTORY OF THE LOAN.

Peking, 13th April.

The history of the late loan is not devoid of interest. Some five months were spent in the negotiations. The loan was finally and definitely signed on the 23rd of March, barely seven weeks from the time when the instalment of the Japanese indemnity falls due in London (8th May). No wonder that the rumour found circulation that China intended to repudiate it. But China never had any such intention. The long delay and interminable negotiations were owing to a variety of causes. Two Boards, that of Revenue and the Tsungli Yamén, had it in charge; two officials, their Excellencies Wing and Chang, President and Vice-President respectively of the first named Board and members of the latter, were the active agents in conducting the negotiations. Prince Kung and H.E. Wu Ting-fen had also the subject in oversight. The Board of Revenue had almost settled the matter with a British syndicate as long ago as November last. The Chargé d'Affaires and Minister of the British and German Legations respectively, with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, stepped in at the end of November and the former requested the British syndicate representative to stand aside for a few days to enable them to get their proposals forwarded to the Tsungli Yamén. This was done and then began the weary negotiations. The second hundred millions were promised by the Chinese Government to Great Britain and Germany. This promise was made to Sir Nicholas O'Connor and much use was afterwards made of it as an argument for granting the loan to the Anglo-German syndicate. The late

British Minister also recommended the Chinese to issue conjointly the fifty millions to be given to each. The Chinese themselves were anxious to give the remainder of the loan to these two countries as a set-off against and to equalise, as it were, the previous loan given to Russia and France. It was not held desirable to get further into the debt of Russia. As your correspondent intimated at the time, China wanted from the very first to divide it equally between the four countries. There was a talk for some time of making the loan one hundred and fifty millions, to cover the cost of the retrocession of Liaotung and the deficit in the price between that fixed by the leaders and par, and to have given this fifty millions to the United States, but this was departed from as no pressure was brought to bear by the United States to participate as a State in the loan. China must borrow another hundred millions to settle her account with Japan. After paying the thirty millions for Liaotung, and the first Japanese instalment, she had on hand some thirty millions, including over a million sterling in the Hongkong Bank and in the Chartered Bank a million sterling. She means to spend the balance of the present loan on a new navy and military matters. This leaves her thus with the necessity of borrowing another hundred millions with which to pay Japan. As the security of the Customs is well nigh exhausted by the loan, it seems hardly likely there will be a rush among Western nations, banks, and syndicates for the next loan. The notion that the Customs Revenue was inadequate to meet the second loan was of course utterly without foundation. Some additional security will require to be provided and it is here where the difficulty will come in. China will either require to pay a greatly increased interest or accept a much lower price, or grant railway, mining, or other concessions. But to return to the present loan. It has had the strong backing of Lord Salisbury. Through the *Chargé d'Affaires* here and through the Chinese Minister in London, the British Prime Minister has told the Chinese Government his views and his wishes in plain, forcible, and unmistakeable language regarding this loan. From the first it was thus apparent in what a strong position the two Legations, and consequently the two Banks negotiating the loan, were placed. Orders from London, and we presume also from Berlin, were at all cost to the effect to support the Hongkong Bank. Here it may be said this Bank was acting for the *Deutsch-Asiatische Bank*. Behind these two Banks was a powerful syndicate in London, headed apparently by the Rothschilds, which we suppose to be the issuing house. The first offer of this combination was 5 per cent. at 89½ and it must be said that for months they stuck to their guns and would not budge one iota. The Chinese Government felt affronted by the low price offered, the obduracy with which it was maintained, and with some of the conditions, with the result that the Chinese Government looked elsewhere to negotiate the loan. The British and German authorities here were incessant in their visits to the Tsungli Yamen, pressing for the loan and using all manner of arguments, and in the long run it even came to the issuing of an ultimatum.* The Chinese Government was naturally more inclined to deal with the foreign Legations, feeling that they had a guarantee for the carrying out of the loan, but nothing at that time could overcome their unwillingness to deal with the Hongkong Bank. At the end of the Chinese year a memorial against the Bank was actually presented to the Throne. The price, the inelasticity of the offer, the urgency of the demands, the absence of a firm offer, and finally the ultimatum with the condition that if not accepted harder terms would be demanded, these things brought matters to a crisis, and the negotiations were broken off. Before this time, the loan had been practically settled in their favour. Then began a series of negotiations with Americans, Shanghai Jews, German, British, and French syndicates. Loans in silver on a silver basis and gold loans in pounds sterling, in marks and francs and

* The period elapsed by reason of the Yamen Ministers waiting the return of some of their colleagues from the Eastern Tombs.

gold dollars, were showered in upon the poor unfortunate and ignorant Chinese Ministers. Telegrams from Shanghai told them of silver loans at 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent. at par which could be negotiated. Parties arrived at Peking and others had started overland from Shanghai and great were the expectations, but an action in the Consular Court at Shanghai by a Chinese Viceroy, which was telegraphed here, pricked the bubble, and the negotiations, although supported by the ex-Viceroy Li, came to an untimely end and parties returned to the South wiser, if sadder, men. On the back of the Shanghai offers came others from America offering terms in silver at a fixed rate of the gold dollar, which had they been able to be carried out would have been most acceptable. Frequent delays and demands for certain periods within which to wire to ascertain facts resulted in still further loss of time. Some English Banks were consulted, but they declined, either because the terms were not good enough or that the thing was already in the hands of the Hongkong London syndicate. Finally, seeing the time was passing and that something must be done, the French appeared on the scene and made an offer. The question was now becoming very serious. Negotiations were sought to be reopened by the Legation in favour of the Hongkong syndicate. The price now offered stood at 90½, but still no firm offer was made. The Bank offered to negotiate the loan at 5 per cent. commission and to give the Chinese Government whatever was realised upon the London market, guaranteeing, however, that it should not be less than the above sum. They made conditions, one, six months in which no loan from any other country, exclusive of the two countries negotiating should be entertained, and another, a most important clause, that the present administration of the Imperial Maritime Customs should remain unaltered. The French offer came as an exceedingly disturbing element in the negotiations. The Chinese insisted on their right to freedom of action in spite of their promises to the British Minister—they were determined to borrow in the cheapest market apart from all political or future consideration. It is not quite clear how the French offer came to be presented on the French side. It is averred that the Chinese Government asked French assistance to extricate them from their difficulties in the matter of the loan. The Chinese strictly deny that they asked French assistance. They wired to Paris, however, to their Minister to enquire the price of a 4 per cent. loan. There may be some truth in both statements, how much we do not venture to say. The Ex-Viceroy Li was strongly in favour of another French loan. At his Imperial audience, when he received his final orders to attend the coronation of the Czar, he was asked by the Emperor about the loan and replied that China should borrow from France. His Imperial master repudiated with scorn the idea that he should sell his country for French francs. When the Ex-Viceroy went to the Iho Park to visit the Empress-Dowager, his patron, the same question came up and was dismissed with the remark that the Emperor would not have it so. At the Tsungli Yamen the Ex-Viceroy again advised the acceptance of the French loan in whole or part, but the Ministers had at the very first offer of the loan declared that they never could accept it. Notwithstanding their resolve to refuse the French offer, it was feared that the very favourable terms offered by the French would nevertheless be accepted by the Chinese. At this stage Lord Salisbury renewed his protests and gave the Tsungli Yamen clearly to understand, through the Chinese Minister in London, that the Chinese Government had promised the loan to the Anglo-German combination, and that, although they were at liberty to negotiate in the cheapest market, they would be held responsible for whatever results might follow which might prove detrimental to Great Britain. The French Minister must have supposed he held the trump card in his hand when he laid down his five conditions of negotiating the loan, the first three of which were that it must be guaranteed by the French Government; that the control of the Maritime Customs must be placed in French hands; and that China must grant to France the right of railway construction in

the three southern provinces. The Chinese stood aghast at the extent of these demands. A French gentleman in the pay of the Customs service was nominated to the post of Comptroller or Deputy-Inspector of Customs. Great economy of administration was to result to the Chinese from this arrangement. This appointment spread consternation in the minds of the British members of the Customs service. It was evident that it would lead, if it was not intended to lead, to the resignation of the Inspector-General and with him the eliminating of the British element. The Russian Government came to the help of the French demands and on the very day when the preliminary agreement was signed an interview was to have taken place with the Russian Secretary on the subject. The proposed interview was postponed till the following day. Every one felt that a crash was imminent. There was no strong man in the field to take the question in hand and show the Chinese the risks they were running. The French were having it all their own way. H.E. Chang Yin-huan was known to be strongly favourable to the French proposal, for reasons of his own, if it was not he who had invited the French offer. For a few days all Peking held its breath, as it were, and everybody was asking of his neighbour the result of the negotiations. The Inspector-General was at last consulted by the Chinese. He had previously refused, it was said, to advise, and he cut the Gordian knot, insisting upon the Banks increasing the price to 94. A preliminary contract was drawn out, and the situation was saved. But for his timely interference the loan in all probability would have fallen to the French. It would be well for China if the I. G. interfered more frequently in State affairs. The formal contract was drawn out and signed later and the final signatures were affixed at the date already given, after it had been learned that the two Banks agreed absolutely to raise eight million pounds by the 8th of May. So far the Chinese are secure as to the next Japanese instalment, but the remaining half of the loan need not be taken firm by the banks if the public fail to subscribe. The last telegrams inform us that the new loan has been largely subscribed both in London and Berlin. This is a matter which must be extremely acceptable to all having interests in China. The preliminary contract was no sooner signed than the representative of the French offer appeared at the Tsungli Yamen regretting the action then concluded and stating that the Chinese could have made better terms through the French. The explanation of the refusal of the French offer was not, as is asserted, because the French were not prepared to take up the whole amount required, but only a portion of it. It was entirely owing to the conditions annexed. France was anxious to consolidate her material interests in southern China and like Russia have some hold upon the country. The Russians and French are wiser in their day and generation than the shortsighted statesmen who have hitherto directed British affairs.

There seems to be some misunderstanding regarding the telegram received anent inscribing the new loan on the books of the Bank of England. This does not create any obligation on the part of that Bank to make advances upon the loan. It merely gives it a degree of respectability and in this the syndicate has succeeded. There is no doubt now that the whole loan will be floated successfully. The first issue amounts to £10,000,000. The two Banks have handled the issuing of the loan with consummate skill. Although the profits to each Bank will fall far short of the large figures mentioned by one of your contemporaries, still it will be considerable, and the monthly payments with the interest thereon and the manipulation of the exchange will bring in a substantial revenue to the Banks. They are to be congratulated on their success and we are not speaking without some authority when we say that Lord Salisbury's action had tended largely to the successful floating of the loan. Who will take the next hundred million tael loan?—N. C. *Daily News* correspondent.

Major Morrison, Commandant of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, having resigned, Captain B. A. Clarke, as senior Captain, assumed command of the Corps from the 24th April.

SERIOUS BICYCLE ACCIDENT IN JAPAN.

Kobe, 21st April.

The Rev. J. B. Porter, of Kyoto, was travelling from Tsuruga to Fukui on Tuesday last in company with several others, and as he was tired before completing the journey he told the others to go on, and he would rest. Later on he started on alone, and in some way, which has not been learned yet, he fell over a precipice estimated by Japanese and foreigners to be between 400 and 600 feet. As he went over a postman saw him and ran on ahead to a village for help. When help arrived it was necessary to go a mile or so beyond where he fell and reach the place by boat. When found Mr. Porter was sitting on the ground with his head leaning forward on his breast. He made a few movements of his lips and then lost consciousness. He was taken to Tsuruga and Dr. Dahning, of Osaka, was summoned. The latest report is that he may live. He was badly cut about the head. The only wonder is that he was not killed. Further particulars and news of his condition is anxiously awaited. Mr. Porter was removed to his home in Kyoto yesterday.—*Hyogo News*.

C. UNKING.

7th April.

"I'm not one of those who can see the cat in the dairy an' wonder what she's come after," says one of George Eliot's characters, and so when one finds the Chinese assigning the Japanese a concession far outside the city, on the other side of the great (and dangerous) river, and about a mile lower down, it is impossible to resist the conclusion that they do not mean the Japanese to do business here, any more than when one finds the Japanese accepting it one can avoid the conclusion that the common Chinese reports, to which I referred in a previous letter, have some foundation, viz., that the Japanese having looked at Chungking do not think much of it, and mean never to come back any more, but just accept a concession anywhere to save face. At the same time there is a proverb: "He that has a head of wax should not walk in the sun," and it may be the Japanese have a head of wax, in Korea and the deferred indemnity, and thus do not care to tarry in the interior of China.

THE FRENCH MISSION AND ITS TREATMENT.

The French Commission of Exploration are anyway all here, now, and the Delegates from Lyons viewing Chungking from all points of view are we hope discovering many points of resemblance. The party from Chêngtu personally conducted by M. Rocher, Consul de France, arrived a few days ago, and do not report favourably of the condition of things in that city. Insults seem to have been their portion, and the population struck them as decidedly sullen and hostile. They were also requested to keep indoors for the first few days until the officials had had time to appease the people, and accustom their minds to the idea of so many foreigners. This they very properly declined to do, and showed themselves about everywhere they had a mind to go. At Tongchuan the mandarins went even further and on their arrival requested them to leave the place at once, saying that if they did not the officials could not be answerable for the consequences. M. Rocher seems to have replied that they would go away when they had completed the business that had brought them there, and somewhat plainly intimated to the officials that they would be held answerable for the consequences if anything happened to any member of the party. They do not complain of having had the usual dirty missiles thrown at them, indeed they complain of nothing and wiped out any insults by one of their party with ready French wit, each evening selecting one of the most objectionable of starers out of a crowd all objectionably staring, and marching up to him boot brush in hand with the peremptory order in unfaltering French: "Here you! brush my boots for me." On which the man thus distinguished brushed the boots thus submitted to him, then fled terrified. But unfortunately he did not appreciate all the humiliation involved in brushing another man's boots for him,

say the Frenchmen laughingly. It must have been a most comic little incident at each evening's inn-coming, an incident that would also always gain in the repetition. They have traversed but little of the ground the American Commission travelled, but the accounts received from Chêngtu do not tend to show that the populace there has been greatly impressed.

The idea seems to be that the French must how have a concession alongside of the Japanese. And we are wondering what is the object of Mr. Brennan's visit to this port, and what will be the outcome of it. Chinese who left Ichang only a few days before he did have already arrived here on the 4th, although four days stopped by snow, and also obliged to delay to join a larger company, because a caravan had recently been robbed *en route*. If the English are also to remove to the other side of the river it is to be hoped steam launches may be allowed to run here so as to give foreigners some opportunity of conferring with Chinese merchants. Mr. Chinda and Mr. Narakara left this port on Easter Tuesday, having arrived on Ash Wednesday, their visit to Chungking being a purely Lenten one. Mr. Woodruff is also leaving this port after but a short time here as Commissioner, Mr. Schjorth of Ichang replacing him. Our cold and rainy weather has been somewhat inordinately prolonged this year up to 5th April, but the thermometer has now gone up to 82 in the house, and poppies have burst forth into full flower. Monsieur and Madame Hass are still living in a boat at the Taiping gate, the usual refuge of strangers, but they hope they have secured a *piéd à terre* till the French Government builds a Consulate.

8th April.

According to Chinese the Japanese concession has 800 feet of frontage, and is 500 feet deep. It has also not been definitely accepted, but only subject to the approval of the Japanese Government. Perhaps after all a better site may eventually be secured. On the present site they say there are 2,000 graves to be removed.

We are sorry to hear that Monsieur Mounier, the distinguished French writer, seems to have got into a certain amount of trouble at the great salt springs of Tseliuching.

At the anti-foot binding meeting the other day when those opposed to binding were asked to stand up all the men present but six arose to their feet, and a merchant among the audience began a speech against binding. Since then a mandarin calling, taking up Pastor Kranz' pamphlet lying on the table, said: "Ah, I have the larger copy of this book with pictures. No, I was not at the meeting the other day, but my people were. As to unbinding, the elder women can't, you see their toes have dropped off. But my little girl of six is not having her feet bound any more. She screamed out so, directly she laid her head upon her pillow, I could not bear to hear it. Besides she got no sleep." He is a man of means, and made no reference as to any possible difficulty about marrying her.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

HONGKONG.

The total number of plague cases for the year is now 731; it is satisfactory to note that the disease does not show any signs of increasing to an alarming extent. During the week some interesting actions have been tried at the Supreme Court, one of them being an appeal by Mr. Kennedy, dairyman, which was dismissed, and another an important action respecting two bills of exchange. Not a little sensation has been caused in the colony by a sentence of three months' imprisonment passed by the Magistrate on the captain and doctor of the German mail steamer *Hohenzollern* for landing at Stonecutters' Island, which is a fortification, without permission. The doctor was also convicted of having a photographic camera in his possession. Last Saturday night an armed gang robbed a shop and in the chase one of them shot a watchman dead. The murderer and four other men are in custody.

Mr. D. Gillies, the popular Secretary of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., returned to the colony on the 1st May by the P. & O. steamer *Manila*.

There were 1,929 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 150 were Europeans.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 37.6, and for the Chinese community 29.8.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Surgeon-Lieutenant J. A. Lowson has been appointed Surgeon-Captain to the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Captain John McCallum, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, has been granted twelve months' leave of absence from the 7th May.

On the 28th April there were 11 cases of plague, on the 29th 16, on the 30th 20, on the 1st May 9, on the 2nd 10, on the 3rd 10, on the 4th 11, and on the 5th 17.

Beginning with the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, leaving hence 21st May, all the steamers of the Pacific Mail and Occidental and Oriental S.S. Companies will call at Honolulu.

A Simla telegram of the 13th April says:—The latest returns relating to recruitment of soldiers in British India for the Hongkong Regiment are eminently satisfactory.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, barrister-at-law, late of Hongkong, has been admitted, at Shanghai, to practise in the Supreme Court for China and Japan, and has joined Mr. W. V. Drummond.

There were 37 in-patients treated at the Alice Memorial Hospital last month and the number of out-patient visits was 1,024. At the Nethersole Hospital the numbers were 41 and 66 respectively.

Geo. H. Bateson Wright, D.D.	\$20
D. Noronha	10
S. R. Futtakea	5
W. J. Tutchter	5
Wan Yuk Shan	5

Mr. John F. Sheridan, the celebrated comedian, and his talented wife (Miss Gracie Whiteford) are passengers by the P. & O. steamer *Pekin*. They made their last appearance with the Willard Opera Company at Shanghai on the 1st May.

Wong Wai Shun, the new Governor of Yunnan, returned to Hongkong on Sunday from Peking, where he was visiting the Emperor, and proceeds to his post at once via Canton and the West River. His last office was that of Provincial Treasurer of Kwangsi.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

D. Sassoon, Sons and Co.	\$100
Meyer and Co.	50

The Queen has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Lieut.-General George Digby Barker to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bermudas or Somers Islands, in succession to General Thomas Casey Lyons. Bermuda is to be congratulated on the appointment.

An indication of a change that may become more general has been brought to our notice, namely, that there is now a vessel on this coast carrying an Indian crew. The captain and officers speak well of them; they are quiet, willing, and less inclined to give trouble than the Chinese.

At the Police Court on the 5th May a coolie in the employ of Mr. A. B. Johnson, Crown Solicitor, pleaded guilty to stealing \$5.50, the money of his master. Mr. Johnson said the prisoner ran away with his foki's wages and was caught yesterday morning. He was sent to gaol for fourteen days with hard labour.

The following subscriptions to the Home for the Aged and Infirm are acknowledged:—

Society of St. Vincent de Paul	\$300
Messrs. Chater and Mody	25
Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G.	25
A. S. G.	25

The name "Tse Yet, San Francisco" given in the last list should be Tsé Yet Francisco.

At the Police Court on Saturday the Procurator in Hongkong for the Dominican Missions in the Far East was summoned by Mr. H. McCallum, Secretary to the Sanitary Board, for not having complied with a notice served on April 16th to have a choked drain at 2, Victoria View, Kowloon, cleaned. The offence was admitted and a fine of \$10 was imposed.

The following telegram has been received by the Government from Saigon and has been communicated to the Chamber of Commerce:—"Import of cattle, etc., absolutely prohibited."

The Sandakan correspondent of the *Straits Times* writes:—It is said that a new and larger steamer has been ordered in Hongkong for the coasting trade by the prosperous Sabah Steamship Co., it being hoped that the China trade of Eastern Borneo and Western Celebes, as far down as Macassar, will be concentrated upon Sandakan for transshipment to Hongkong.

The day before Dr. Ayres reached Hongkong he had his gold watch and chain stolen from under the pillow of his bed and the endeavours which were made to recover it failed. Dr. Ayres reported his loss to the Hongkong Police on landing here, but it is questionable whether the missing property will ever be restored to him as perhaps by this time it has been put in the melting pot.

A robbery by a gang of armed thieves took place at Honam last week. Some eight or ten men armed with revolvers entered the residence of a wealthy gentleman and half the gang kept the inmates (as it happened at the time all women) under control by presenting revolvers at them whilst the other half secured all the money and valuables. They got away, scot free, with about Tls. 5,000 in cash and jewellery.

Twenty cargo boats carrying in all 28,000 piculs of rice left Canton on the 27th April in tow of six steam-launches for the famine district in Kwangsi. Some days were lost in preliminary arrangements for the dispatch of this fleet. One steamer could take the whole load up easily, but rather than adopt this simple expedient the officials allow the people to starve while thousands of tons of rice are available at Hongkong and Canton.

From Messrs Wieler & Co. we learn that the steamer *Ingraban* has stranded on the bar at Tamsui harbour. The information was received through the captain of the *Cosmopolit*, who passed the vessel, but according to his statement the *Ingraban* is apparently uninjured and given favourable weather will be floated without much difficulty. The vessel was bound from Hongkong to Newchwang via Tamsui with cargo.

An English Judge's telling a convicted prisoner that he could sentence him to a term of imprisonment far exceeding his natural life has been referred to as a bull, but it is not so very extraordinary after all. The notorious Lee Lum Kwai was sentenced by Judge Smale to penal servitude for two lives and a few odd years. When his friends agitated for some mitigation of the punishment it was suggested that the odd years might be knocked off.

On the morning of the 4th May the police received information from the Chinese officials at Kowloon City that three privates in the Asiatic Artillery had been detained there for assaulting a boy by kicking him. In the afternoon Mr. Lethbridge and Inspector Quincey went over to Kowloon and learnt that a compensation of \$40 would release the men. The price was considered much too high, and \$7 was offered and accepted and the artillerymen were then allowed to go.

The Jubilee Committee have suggested noon as the most appropriate hour for the ceremony of unveiling the Queen's statue on the 25th May. This hour does not seem to meet with universal approval. It is urged that the heat in the middle of the day would be very trying, both to those who have to take part in the ceremony and to the spectators, and that half-past five or six o'clock in the evening would be more agreeable and more generally convenient.

Shortly before ten o'clock on the night of the 29th April the Fire Brigade turned out to an outbreak of fire at 115, Praya West. The fire originated in the third storey, where fortunately it was confined, the flames being extinguished in about half an hour. The premises were insured with the South British Insurance Company for \$2,000. The top storey of the premises was gutted and the second floor was damaged by fire and water. At the Police Court on the 1st May Commander W. C. H. Hastings held an inquiry respecting the fire. There were no suspicious circumstances and the premises were released.

A special session of licensing Justices was held at the Magistracy on the 5th May to consider an application by William Krater for the transfer of his publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises at 290, Queen's Road Central, under the sign of "The Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle" to Wolff Friedmann. The Justices present were Commander Hastings and Mr. W. M. B. Arthur. Mr. Grist appeared for the applicant. The Bench refused to grant the application.

On Saturday morning one of the two men sentenced the other day to six months' imprisonment for obtaining money by menaces committed suicide. The ex-whitewasher misbehaved himself in prison and was consequently ordered three days' solitary confinement, and it was while undergoing this punishment that he put his queue round his neck and strangled himself by fixing the end of the queue to the bar of a ventilator and allowing himself a drop of one foot. The inquest was held in the afternoon and a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

A representative of the *Times of Ceylon* sought an interview with H.E. Li Hung-chang at Colombo. The Chief Secretary was deputed to give the reporter the information he required. The Viceroy, the reporter was informed, had so far greatly enjoyed his journey, standing the fatigue very well indeed. They had not met with any rough weather, but there was a fog at Hongkong which prevented the *Ernest Simons* entering the harbour on the evening they arrived there. His Excellency was sorry to hear there had been some disappointment at Hongkong owing to his not landing there; but he had been advised that if he did so he would run the risk of being quarantined at Singapore, owing to the existence of plague at Hongkong, and he did not like to run any risks.

Going from home for the news! We take the following paragraph from the *Japan Gazette*:—"A report is current that a Hongkong sugar company has received orders to ship some 200,000 piculs of refined sugar to Europe. That is a reversal of the condition of things prevailing last year when sugar was shipped from Europe to Japan. The news will doubtless have a very marked effect on the sugar markets in the East, and perhaps the concern that lost a quarter of a million last year may pay a dividend this. We take it that the Cuban troubles are responsible for this fresh development. Cuba exports annually, in normal years, close on 1,000,000 tons of sugar. With that supply partially stopped the price of sugar must go up with a bound. Of course the check may be but temporary, but if the war goes on the destruction must be so great as to cripple Cuba's production for many years to come, in which case Formosa and Manila sugar would be in great demand."

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The Magistrates of Nam-hoi and Pun-u issued a joint notification the other day to the effect that as plague has again broken out in Canton, and many swine have died of the disease, people should take good care not to eat any unwholesome pork, which is a great danger to life. If any one is discovered selling the flesh of animals which have died of plague he will be severely dealt with.

As famine is raging in the districts of Lau-chow and Yum-chow, in Kwangsi, rice is sold at seven taels a picul, and poor parents are willing to sell their children at five cents a catty. These children are mostly bought by the rich natives, for they are not allowed to be exported for fear that they might be sold to people of bad character, who would force them to lead immoral lives.

A San-sz in the district of San-ling, finding that robberies were often reported in that district, tried to put an end to such outrages. He accordingly fortified the place, and the police force was increased. The plan proved successful and some time ago several robbers who made an attack on a house were all captured, and they were sent to Canton for execution. On the 12th April other robbers, who were sorry for the loss of their brothers, made an attack on the house of the San-sz to wreak their

revenge. When they broke in they killed all the inmates, thirteen altogether. One of the women who was killed was pregnant. Fortunately the San-sz was out on that night. He had four sons, two of whom were killed; the other two were at school in Canton. After the robbers had collected all the valuables in the house they went away, without meeting any opposition. The case has been reported to the Canton officers, but no trace of the robbers has been discovered.

As the 1st May was the birthday of Viceroy Tan-chung-lun, all the officials and expectants, high and low, civil and military, were to go to his Yamen to offer congratulations with valuable presents. All the officials, civil and military, of the other districts of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, who could not come in person, had sent their servants to Canton to join in the celebration. His Excellency had prepared a beautiful dinner in his Yamen to entertain his visitors.

Owing to the long drought in Hainan all the crops have proved a failure and rice is now exceedingly dear. One dollar can only buy twelve catties.

The remains of Admiral Cheng Shao-chung, who died at Tiger Pass some time ago, will be conveyed to Canton on the 11th instant.

Over thirty houses were blown down by a strong gale in Ta-kiang-hu, in Shik-tsu on the 18th April. More than one hundred persons were injured, but no lives were lost. The natives said that the falling of the houses was caused by a dragon that passed there at that time.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 16th April says:—"It has been definitely settled that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha shall receive a subsidy of 60,000 yen per year for maintaining a steamship service to Formosa. Three steamers will leave Japan each month for Formosa, via Kagoshima and Okinawa."

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their piece goods trade report dated Shanghai, 30th April, say:—"The tremendous demand for bricks here at present, owing to the large number of buildings being erected, was evidently never anticipated by some of the mill promoters, and is likely to delay the work very considerably."

A Seoul telegram of the 14th April to the Japan papers says:—"Taking the opportunity of the contract for the Seoul-Chemulpo line being granted to an American firm, a joint combination of Russian and French speculators have applied for a concession enabling them to construct a railway between Seoul and Gensan."

The *China Gazette* says:—"There is a rumour that China intends making a railway loan almost immediately, and the fact that Mr. Thos. Jackson, Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, is coming up from Hongkong is pointed to by the knowing ones as a confirmation of the report. The only security that China could offer for such a loan is the prospective railway itself."

A Seoul despatch of the 23rd April to the Japan papers says:—"Fifty Russian marines, with two naval officers and five naval doctors, arrived here to-day from Chemulpo. One report says they are simply reliefs for the marines now in the capital, while according to another the additional force is for the purpose of guarding the Palace, as the King is about to return there from the Russian Legation. The new Premier and Financial Minister are believed to be in favour of the return of the King to his Palace."

On her last downward trip the *Hiroshima-maru* passed very near to a water spout off the coast of Sumatra. Fortunately, Captain Andersen had slightly altered his course some time before, or in all probability he would have had a most dangerous rather than what happily proved to be an interesting experience. No ship, he says, could possibly live in the midst of such a disturbance of the sea. A great column of water reached, as it seemed, up to the sky and constituted a grand sight, a whirlwind drawing up the water just as if a suction-pipe was at work. It was the first time Captain Andersen had witnessed anything of the kind, though we believe water-spouts are of not infrequent occurrence in the neighbourhood of the Sumatra coast.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

A contributor to the *Japan Gazette* writes:—Ingenuity is the foster-mother of business. A local merchant had consigned to him a case of corn-plasters. He stated there was no demand as the Japanese wear neither boots nor shoes. "Make a demand" was the peremptory reply. The merchant pondered and then a happy thought struck him. It was summer-time and many were the complaints made of *hara itai*. So he gravely told some Japanese that if the corn-plasters were placed on the stomach in a particular position they would cure many diseases. They were tried and pronounced wonderful, and testimonials flowed in eulogizing their efficacy. That is why corn-plasters now figure so largely on the import list.

At Manila on the 26th April an outbreak occurred in the leper hospital of San Lazaro which resulted in two men being killed and another seriously injured. It appears that for some time past eight of the patients had been scheming to effect their escape and on the day named they made the attempt. Their plan was to murder the men in charge of the ward, who were patients promoted to office in consequence of their good conduct. Accordingly at seven o'clock in the evening they placed themselves in convenient positions and when opportunity offered the attack was made, with the result that two of the ward keepers were killed and another seriously injured. The noise of the disturbance brought the staff of the hospital on the scene and the conspirators were placed under arrest.

So far as we can learn there will be but one British steamer to go up this year to Hankow to load tea for London, and that one will be the China Mutual S.N. Co.'s steamer *Oanfa*, which is expected to get away from there on or about the 15th May. The market will in all probability open on the 8th. The few still interested in the tea business do not prognosticate favourably for this season's tea. The weather this year has so far been decidedly against the crops, which means an inferior, small, and late market. The tea trade of China has collapsed, and in a short time will not be worth the name, and China has only herself to thank for it. What a vast difference when compared with the past. Few British merchants are now interested to any extent. The greater portion of the China tea now goes to Russia, direct to Odessa or via Tientsin by the caravan route.—*Mercury*.

A correspondent writes to the *N. C. Daily News* from Newchwang, under date of the 21st April:—"H.M.S. *Rattler* was safely floated out of dock on the night of the 16th, and to the great regret of the whole community she left here yesterday for Chefoo and Chemulpo. This fine vessel during the winter has been like a yacht full of gentlemen, and she will long be gratefully remembered in Newchwang. Everything is exceedingly quiet and business almost at a standstill here, there being only three steamers in port. On the 20th a large number of soldiers straggled through the settlement into the city, a very shabby and forlorn-looking lot, having evidently travelled some distance." The same paper hears from Chefoo under date the 23rd April, that in consequence of a telegram from Newchwang H.M.S. *Porpoise* was despatched there on the 22nd. It is supposed that there was some uneasiness there about the disbanded soldiers.

Incendiarism is suspected in connection with the recent burning of a rice mill at Cholon. The *Courrier de Saigon* comments as follows:—"With the system of extreme protection, which results in giving to the yellow race the same rights as those enjoyed by the French, with these execrable tribunals whose workings of equality kill our influence with the population, the Chinese make themselves at home, they carry their head high, they adopt our models, and they drive us out of our colonies. The gigantic syndicate of a hundred thousand traders not having sufficed to at once strangle French industry and reduce to ruin all the French mills the Chinese are adopting a more expeditious system; they burn our mills, they monopolise the grain in the most shameful manner, they subsidise incendiaries to keep them ready to poison or shoot us." Those wicked Chinese! No doubt our friends at Saigon, when they were kowtowing to Li Hung-chang, told the great man all that they thought of his country and his countrymen.

The Perak correspondent of the *Straits Times* says:—It is believed that the present year will prove a prosperous one to the cane growers of Perak. Not only is there an increase in the area of cultivation on the old estates, but there have been applications for land in the Krian district which represent the investment of a considerable capital. The Government granted 5,000 acres of land to a European some two years ago, and a company having been formed, this property will be shortly put under cultivation. The money, which was raised amongst European capitalists in China, is said to amount to 400,000 taels. In addition to this there are several Chinese ventures about to be made.

The *Shanghai Mercury* devotes an article to controverting some remarks of the *Japan Mail* on the cotton industry at Shanghai. As to the statement that the Mitsu Mill projectors have abandoned their enterprise in Shanghai owing to their fear of vexatious taxation of cotton, etc., by the Chinese, the *Mercury* says:—On this subject we are inclined to think that the *Japan Mail* says rather less than it knows. We, too, have information concerning the reasons which have actuated the Japanese cotton spinners, which it were premature to touch on at present. Suffice it to say that the "advice" issued by the Japanese Government to its nationals to cease from all industrial operations in China for the present arises from weightier causes than any fear of likin or vexatious factory taxes. The *Japan Mail* is well aware of graver issues than those which hang on the negotiations now pending over the Supplementary Treaty of Commerce and Navigation. At the same time we agree with Mr. Ariga Nagabumi in regretting that Japan should have adopted so cautious, or, rather, so fainthearted a policy. The shadow of the Great Bear, now looming large over China, is not likely to be removed by such tactics.

The Chefoo correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—"H.M.S. *Porpoise* arrived here a few days ago, from Fusan, and thrilled us by the relation of an event which speaks well for the discipline and pluck of her crew. All hands were at quarters one evening, when the good ship was steaming slowly against a head sea, occasionally plunging heavily. A heavier plunge than usual buried the bowsprit, and with it a bluejacket whose duty had taken him for a moment to this perilous spot, deep below the surface: the heavy sea swept the fore-castle, causing some confusion, and had not the gallant commander, who happened also to be temporarily officer of the watch, by good fortune had his eye on the luckless bluejacket, his absence from the emergent bowsprit might have escaped notice. The engines were promptly stopped, and hardly had the pipe "man overboard" been heard, ere the lifeboat's crew were in their places and the boat half lowered, almost before the officer referred to had had time to decide whether he dared give the order, to risk six lives for one. The boat was no less smartly let go, when the order was given, the man picked up, and the boat again hooked on and hoisted, all concerned showing the greatest coolness and presence of mind, though the boat's crew, bar the coxswain, were all young seamen under 21. May each one of them get as prompt aid in any emergency which fortune may have in store for him as they rendered their shipmate on this occasion!"

The lamentable disaster to the *Onwo* is being used to point a moral in the life insurance line, and a very good moral, too. The *N. C. Daily News* says:—"No better instance of the value of life insurance could be offered than the fact that three of the foreigners on the *Onwo* were insured in the Equitable for sums aggregating \$25,000 Mex. Presuming, which we trust is not the case, that these three men are drowned, we may well consider how long it would have taken to raise by subscription a sum of \$25,000 for their families; and that would have been charitable aid, whereas this is the result of prudence. It is some slight consolation to know that the foresight and thrift shown in these instances will assist materially to lessen the distress which so often follows a disaster of this kind. The compradore had been asked to insure his life in the Sun Life Assurance Co., and it was pointed out to him that there was no time like the present. However, he decided to put

it off until his return, when he said he would certainly take out a policy.

The *Kobe Chronicle* says:—Though the many friends of Captain Wettin in the Far East will regret to learn that this is his last voyage on the *Hohenzollern* they will be glad, for his sake, to know that the removal means a gratifying promotion. The genial captain has been appointed to the command of the *Kaiser Wilhelm II.*, on the Genoa-New York line, on which vessel he was serving as chief officer until he was appointed captain of the *Hohenzollern* eighteen months ago. This position is to be filled by Captain Harrassowitz, who brought out the *Lübeck*. Captain Wettin should need no assurance that the good wishes of his numerous friends in the Far East will follow him.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	7,146,099	7,813,790
Amoy	781,523	772,692
Foochow	11,175,408	14,357,243
Shanghai and Hankow.....	21,111,512	21,591,499
	40,514,542	44,535,229

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Amoy.....	16,180,101	19,447,739
Foochow	6,066,651	4,626,555
Shanghai	29,029,320	25,796,160
	51,276,072	49,870,454

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai.....	27,240,863	22,555,223

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	29,839,717	28,777,516
Kobe	18,732,080	16,879,941
	48,571,797	45,657,457

SILK.

CANTON, 5th May.—Tsatlces and Re-reels.—No enquiry. Prices nominal. Filatures.—Shortly after our last report advice of a better feeling and slight advance in Lyons caused a considerable increase of activity. Buying at once became general and holders took advantage of the movement for clearing some 2,000 bales before raising their rate. With the advance in prices buying ceased. The Lyons market relapsed into its former dull condition, and although some traces of firmness still linger here, especially on good chops in fine sizes, prices in general are pretty well back to their previous level. Business with America still remains at a complete standstill. Waste.—The firmer tone of prices consequent upon the active enquiry reported in our last, and a rise in Exchange, have combined to check further business. The market closes quiet at fairly steady rates. Stock.—Tsatlee, 2-0 sales; Filature, 6,000 bales, reeled and un-reeled, to close of season. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 6 months' sight 2/2½ and Pes. 2.81 per Dollar:—

Tsatlee	No. 1 \$490	Nominal.	= 9/1
	No. 2 \$475		
	No. 3 \$460		
	No. 4 \$440		
	No. 5 \$430		
	No. 6 \$415		= 7/8½
Filature 1st class	11/13...\$625 to \$615		
1st "	13/15...\$625 to \$615		
2nd "	9/11...\$620 to \$625		
2nd "	10/12...\$590 to \$610		
2nd "	13/15...\$580 to \$590		
2nd "	10/12...\$575 to \$585		
3rd "	11/13 \$505 to \$515		
3rd "	13/15 \$505 to \$480		
Long-reels Lacklow	\$495		
Satow	\$460		
Sui'aw	\$430		

Re-reel Lacklow No. 1.	\$500	Grant-reel.
No. 2.	\$485	
No. 3.	\$470	
No. 4.	\$450	
Mahang No. 1.	\$475	Grant-reel.
Punjam Books No. 3 & 4.	\$82	
Punjam Waste	\$72	
Steam Waste Extra	\$94	
Market, Extra	\$76	Grant-reel.
No. 1	\$58	
Gum Waste No. 2	\$50	
Re-reel Waste	\$86	
Pierced Cocoons	\$64	Grant-reel.
Settlements for the fortnight:—		
1895-96.	1894-95.	
For Europe ... 1,600 bales	350 bales	
For America .. 75 "	50 "	
For Bombay .. 40 "	— "	
[& 10 piculs.		

SHANGHAI, 30th April.—(From Messrs. Cronie and Burkill's circular).—London advices to 28th current quote Blue Elephants 10/6, and a quiet market. Raw Silk.—Prices are unchanged, but there is a little better feeling in the market.—Transactions are on a fair scale considering the time of year. Tsatlees.—About 500 bales have changed hands at quotations. Taysams.—Some 50 bales 9/12 Moss have been settled, but stocks of Coarse Silks are small. Re-reels and Filatures.—There has been some demand for China Filatures, Hainene, and over 100 bales are going forward. Yellow Silk.—Very little doing. Arrivals.—As per Customs Returns from 23rd to 29th current 326 bales White, 44 piculs Yellow, and 162 bales Wild Silks. In Waste Silk and Pongees we hear of no business.

Purchases include:—Tsatlees.—Red Pagodah at Tls. 407, Mountain 3 at Tls. 380, Bird Yuenling at Tls. 350, Bird Seeling at Tls. 330, Silver Double Elephant at Tls. 323, Gold Kiling at Tls. 318, Blue Phoenix at Tls. 307, Chen Tar Chayling at Tls. 290. Hanchow Tsatlees.—Lanping Lily Flower at Tls. 302. Taysam.—9/12 Moss Double Butterfly 2 at Tls. 300, do. Green Stork 4 at Tls. 251. Filature.—Gold Pheasant Haining B at Tls. 480, Market Chop at Tls. 415 to Tls. 425. Wild Silk.—Szechuen Tussah Raw at Tls. 112.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	53,565	48,435
Canton	17,618	15,146
Yokohama	21,718	20,258
	92,901	83,839

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Canton	9,377	8,676
Shanghai	9,736	8,885
Yokohama	28,058	24,848
	47,171	42,409

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 6th May.—Large arrivals have taken place and the market is weaker. Quotations for Formosa are \$61.00 to \$61.50. During the past week sales have been 230 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 6th May.—The decline in prices last noted has continued. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.13 to 7.15 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.52 to 6.54 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.48 to 4.51 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.30 to 4.32 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.02 to 7.05 "
do. " 2, White...	6.40 to 6.42 "
do. " 1, Brown...	4.38 to 4.40 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown...	4.25 to 4.28 "
Soochow-Sugar Candy	10.50 to 11.00 "
Shekloong	9.52 to 9.55 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The German steamer *Sachsen*, Hongkong to Singapore, 28th April, took:—11 boxes Treasure, (\$42,000); for Colombo:—6 packages Chairs, 22 bundles Matting, and 17 packages Sundries; for Aden:—300 boxes Cassia, and 255 bales Galangal; for Alexandria:—10 cases Glass Bangles; for Peyrouth:—1 case Glass Bangles; for Genoa:—86 bales Canes, 81 bales Merchandise, and 1 case

Curios; for London:—9 boxes Gold Coins (\$39,971), 1 box Jewellery (\$2,500), 26 boxes Essential Oil, and 1 box Cigars; for Lisbon:—2 cases Lacquered Ware, 2 cases Earthen Ware, 1 case Silver Ware, 1 case Dried Lychees, 5 cases Chinaware, 1 case Silk, and 2 cases Tea; for Antwerp:—100 cases Merchandise; for Hamburg:—327 bales Feathers, and 625 boxes Fire Crackers; for Bremen:—3 packages Rattan Chairs, 78 rolls Matting, 7 packages Soy Beans, 10 cases Private Effects, 2 cases Blackwoodware, 14 cases Curios, 2 cases Blackwoodware, 2 cases Sundries, 1 case Paper, 1 package Silk, and 1 case Cigars; for Antwerp:—4 cases Cigars, 83 rolls Matting, 25 boxes Chinaware, 22 cases Ginger, 262 bales Feathers, 1 case Turning Leathers, 118 bales Rattan Core, 357 bales Merchandise, 4 cases Merchandise, 75 cases Bristles, 1 case Curios, 30 bales Split Bamboo, 5 mat packages Tea, 100 rolls Matting, 530 bales Bamboo Scraps, and 48 bales Leaf Tobacco; for Trieste:—70 bales Pierced Cocoons; for Amsterdam:—10 boxes Tea Sticks, and 12 boxes Sundries; for Milan:—130 bales Waste Silk; for Montevideo:—100 packages Tea.

The steamer *Yarra*, Hongkong to Suze, 29th April, took:—2 cases Silk Piece Goods, and 93 packages Furniture and Effects; for France:—606 bales Raw Silk, 2 bales Cocoons, 23 bales Hair, 25 bales Hemp, 3 cases Silk Piece Goods, 21 packages Curios, and 20 packages Merchandise; for Milan:—70 bales Raw Silk.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 6th May.—Bengal.—Owing to news of a further decline in India, there has been another fall in prices during the interval, New Patna closing at \$760, Old Patna at \$742, New Benares at \$697, and Old Benares at \$765.

Malwa.—Prices remain unchanged the market ruling steady. The following are the latest figures:—

New	750 with allance of 0 to 4 cts.
Old (2 3 yrs.)	\$760 " 1 to 2 "
" (4 5 yrs.)	\$770 " 0 to 1 "
Older	\$780 " 0 to 1 "

Persian.—The market has continued dull, only a few small sales having taken place in Paper-wrapped kin's, quotations for which close at \$620 to \$665, and for Oily at \$600 to \$630 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—	
New Patna	960 chests
Old Patna	550 "
New Benares	290 "
Old Benares	70 "
Malwa	260 "
Persian	1,420 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIMUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 29	715	732	710	770	750,760	770,780
April 30	715	735	710	775	750,760	770,780
May 1	715	737	710	780	750,760	770,780
May 2	715	737	712	780	750,760	770,780
May 3	715	735	712	780	750,760	770,780
May 4	707	707	705	775	750,760	770,780
May 5	702	745	700	770	750,760	770,780
May 6	700	742	697	765	750,760	770,780

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 6th May.—There is no change to report in the Canton Market, sales having been done at previous quotations. Stocks: Bengal 5,500 bales, Ningpo about 100 bales.

Bombay	\$12.00 to 16.00 p. pl.
Kurrachee	12.00 to 15.50 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and	14.00 to 17.00 "
Dacca	
Shanghai and Japanese.	19.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.	19.00 to 21.00 "
Madras	13.00 to 17.00 "
Sales: 1,000 bales Bengal, Rangoon and Dacca.	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 6th May.—Under the influence of a strong demand from Canton the market is advancing. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	per picul.
" Round, good quality	\$2.34 to 2.36
" Long	2.62 to 2.64
" Long	2.75 to 2.77
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.57 to 2.60
" Garden, " No. 1	2.84 to 2.86
" White	3.15 to 3.18
" Fine Cargo	3.32 to 3.35

COALS.

HONGKONG, 6th May.—Sales of 2,500 tons Australian on private terms are reported.

Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$12.00 to — ex ship, nominal.
Australian	7.00 to 7.25 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Lump	\$5.60 to 5.75 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small	4.85 to — ex ship, do
Moji Lump	4.00 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 6th May.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—675 bales No. 10 at \$70.50 to \$76, 200 bales No. 12 at \$73.50 to \$77, 125 bales No. 16 at \$87 to \$90, 905 bales No. 20 at \$90 to \$92.50. *Grey Shirtings*.—900 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Double Fish at \$2.75, 875 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$3.70, 1,500 pieces 10 lbs. Flower Vase at \$3.72, 900 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue 5 men at \$3.70, 2,000 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 men at \$3.70, 1,800 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Fish at \$2.32, 1,800 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Joss B. at \$2.85, 350 pieces 7 lbs. Red 5 men at \$1.95. *White Shirtings*.—1,050 pieces Gold Tiger at \$3.67, 1,250 pieces Gold Joss at \$3.10, 1,000 pieces Gold Joss B. at \$3.10, 2,000 pieces Gold Goose at \$4, 1,000 pieces D. 70 at \$3.35 to \$3.37, 1,000 pieces No. 300 at \$3.35, 1,500 pieces No. 600 at \$4.12, 1,000 pieces X 6 at \$3.50, 500 pieces X 7 at \$3.75, 1,000 pieces X 8 at \$4.20, 750 pieces X 9 at \$4.40, 1,000 pieces S.Q. at \$4.12, 2,000 pieces Flower at \$4.62, 150 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.45, 150 pieces C. K. at \$4.35, 500 pieces Flower Basket at \$2.45, 1,250 pieces 100 at \$4.90. *Victoria Lawns*.—3,000 pieces Pink Lion at \$0.60. *T-Cloths*.—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.30, 600 pieces 8 lbs. V.V. at \$2.15, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Silver Lion No. 2 at \$1.78, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Blue Dragon at \$2.57, 375 pieces 7 lbs. 4 Dragon and Flag at \$2.15, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Shoemaker at \$2.15, 4,750 pieces 7 lbs. Gold Dragon at \$2.25, 2,100 pieces 8 lbs. Gold Dragon at \$2.60, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Blue Dragon B.B. at \$2.25, 1,750 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay Red Man at \$1.52, 780 pieces T. A. 1 Crown at \$1.92, 500 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Bear at \$2.72, 500 pieces 7 lbs. Gold Horse at \$2.55. *Spanish Stripes*.—120 pieces B.B.B. assorted at \$0.58.

METALS:—*Yellow Metals*.—22 cases 16/2 4 ozs Muntz at \$25.25. *Tin*.—150 slabs Malacca at \$34.90, 500 boxes tin plates at \$4.70 to \$4.75.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$64.00 to \$92.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	104.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24	109.00 to 112.00
" 28 to 32	114.00 to 119.00
" 38 to 42	124.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs.	1.85 to 2.05
8 1/2 lbs.	2.20 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs.	3.20 to 4.00
White Shirtings—5 1/2 to 5 1/2 rd.	2.30 to 2.50
5 1/2 to 6 1/2 " ..	2.65 to 3.25
6 1/2 to 6 1/2 " ..	3.30 to 3.75
Fine	4.05 to 6.90
Book-folds.	3.20 to 5.40
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	0.60 to 1.25
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs. (32 ") ..	1.80 to 2.95
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.15 to 2.40
8 to 8 1/2 lbs. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 to 14 lbs.	3.26 to 4.30

FANCY COTTONS.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5 lbs.	1.30 to 3.50
Brocades—Dyed	3.75 to 4.50
	per yard
Damasks	0.12 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	3.07 to 0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.21 to 0.28
Velveteens—18 in.	0.16 to 0.20
	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk ..	0.40 to 0.85
	per yard
Woollees	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60 to 0.95
German	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 3.50
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.00 to 28.00
Assorted	7.00 to 8.10
Camlets—Assorted	13.00 to 7.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted ..	10.00 to 18.00
Orleans—Plain	3.00 to 3.60
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.20 to 8.40

METALS

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	3.05 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	2.00 to 3.05
Swedish Bar	4.75 to 4.80
Small Round Rod	3.55 to —
Hoop	4.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, Australian	6.65 to —

	per case
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	25.25 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	25.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	24.75 to —
Tin	35.60 to 35.75

	per box
Tin-Plates	5.00 to —
	per cwt. case
Steel	4.25 to —

SUNDRIES

	per picul
Quicksilver	109.75 to —
	per box
Window Glass	3.80 to —
	per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil	2.07 to —

SHANGHAI, 30th April.—(From Messrs. Noél, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—The market has been quieter this week, but certainly steady, the advance that has taken place in the States for anything for delivery in fairly reasonable time checking the demand in those makes, while the relatively higher cost of Manchester goods is curtailing business in that direction. The money market is decidedly easier and the relief thus afforded has been clearly shown by the improvement in deliveries; it is still, however, abnormally high and copper cash remains very dear. The native authorities are supposed to be taking steps to all-viate this stringency, but the extensive coinage operations they are said to have in contemplation make no visible progress. For current requirements the demand is still insufficient to cause the dealers to go much outside their own holdings, consequently transactions in Manchester makes especially, have been mostly of a retail nature, but generally cover replacing cost, as holders are firm. For all Cottons, with the exception of 8.4-lbs. Shirting, prices at auction have ruled fairly steady, and these latter are the most unsatisfactory to deal with privately. Best White Shirtings are still in good request, further orders also going forward at full rates. The markets at Tientsin and Newchwang are active, but at the latter port the dealers do not seem to take kindly to the new system of cash payments which is being introduced. Stocks are not heavy, especially at the former port, and there is every promise of a brisk business in the near future. Shipments for the river ports are going on freely, which speaks well for those markets. The terrible disaster that befell the s.s. *Onwa* early this morning at Woosung has cast a gloom over the community. She carried a fair cargo of miscellaneous piece goods, which no doubt will have to be replaced.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report.—1st May.)—Business has not yet improved to any extent worth commenting on; interest has ruled very high, and in consequence deliveries have been restricted; at the moment the native money market is easier, but still rates are not low enough to encourage buyers to purchase freely. Home markets remain steady, outward freights are reported as advancing all round, and from all accounts trade in Europe is prosperous and the immediate outlook good. On this side values for stock have dropped in sympathy with hard money, but as importers are not inclined to give way the fall is quite nominal and only affects those forced to place goods on the market. Natives, however, have been selling in several instances at 10 to 15 per cent. loss to realise cash, but this has not been a general movement. Lead is quoted locally at Tls. 5.15, "spot," with nothing doing. Iron.—Nailrods have been offered by natives at Tls. 2.35, "to arrive," but without result. Makers are said to be fairly well employed and not ready to give prompt delivery. Pig Iron.—Redcar, No. 4, and also No. 3 have been sold at 59s. and 62s. 6d. respectively. Bamboo Steel.—Works are fully employed and unable to take further contracts for delivery before October, so that rates may be expected to harden on this side. Copper and Yellow Metal.—25 cases Copper Sheathing, 14/32, have been sold at Tls. 24.25, and 38 cases Muntz Yellow Metal 10/32, at Tls. 20.50, both ex stock. Sales have been made in other brands of Yellow Metal during the last fortnight at various rates from Tls. 19.50 for 14/32 to Tls. 19.75 ex stock. For future arrival natives still need to come up in their ideas of

prices. Old Material.—300 tons Scrap Iron have been contracted for and contracts have also been settled for Boiler Plates, Steel Plate Cuttings, etc. Cart Tyres have been sold at Tls. 1.75, ex godown, for inferior assortment.

WEDNESDAY, 6th May.
CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
EXCHANGE

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/24
Bank Bills, on demand	2/24
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/24
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/24
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/24
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.77
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.82
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.24
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	53 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	55 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	186
Bank, on demand	186 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	186
Bank, on demand	186 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	16 1/2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	8.98
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	46.80

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 6th May.—The market generally has ruled dull, and we have nothing of importance to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been on offer during the week at 185 and 184 per cent. prem. without leading to business. Offers to sell on time at equivalent rates have met with no response. Nationals and Bank of China continue neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—All Marines have ruled quiet, and beyond small sales of Unions at \$215 we have no business to report. Yangtszes have declined to \$148, and North-Chinas have been freely offered at quotation without leading to business. Straits are enquired for at \$28, but we have heard of no sales.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have gone back to \$335 with sales and sellers, and Chinas, after small sales at \$94, remain on offer at that rate.

SHIPPING.—A fair number of Hongkong, Canton, and Macaos have changed hands at \$33 1/2 for cash, and at rather higher than equivalent rates on time. Douglases, after further small sales at \$55, have declined to \$54, at which rate shares could probably be obtained. Sales of Indo-Chinas are reported at \$65. China and Manilas and China Mutuals remain neglected.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue to rule weak with no business; the rate has fallen to \$115 with sellers. Luzons are obtainable at \$62, but no buyers come forward.

MINING.—Punjoms have continued very steady during the week with sales at \$13.50 and \$13.75; at time of writing small lots are obtainable at \$13.50; the results of last month's crushing are not yet to hand, although hourly expected. Balmorals have changed hands at \$1.90 and although more shares are obtainable at the rate buyers vainly offer \$1.80. Jebebus on receipt of unfavourable private advices from the Straits have ruled weak and sellers during the week after accepting \$3.50 have been unable to get rid of shares at \$3.25. The unfavourable reports above referred to are the prospect of no dividend and the carrying of some \$30,000 to the debit of Working Account. As these private reports have not come to us, we simply give them for what they are worth. Raubs have declined to \$5.50 after further sales at \$5.75.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa have been comparatively

inactive and we have only small sales to report at 183 per cent. prem. for cash, and at 191 per cent. prem. for August 31st. Market closes with sellers at 183 cash, at 185 to 184 for the end of the month, and at 187 per cent. prem. for June 30th. Wharves are out of favour with no business at \$47. Wanchai Godowns have changed hands at \$40.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands, after further small sales at \$72, close weak at that rate. Hotels have improved to \$27 with sales, after sales at \$26 and \$26 1/2. West Points continue neglected.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Watsons have found further buyers, and close steady at \$13. Electric in anticipation of a call of \$2 per share (which would make them fully paid up) have been pretty freely offered and small sales have been effected at \$6.75; shares are, however, wanted at that rate and we do not think any are obtainable under \$7. Ropes have found buyers and close steady at \$118. Ices have been negotiated at \$108, \$107 1/2, and \$107, and Fenwicks at \$26 and \$25 1/2. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—
JOINT STOCK SHARES.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[355]
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	184 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	25	nominal
Do. ordinary	22	nominal
Do. deferred	21	22 buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	28	\$31, sellers
Foun. Shares	21	\$31, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$9, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$5 1/2, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$5
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$115, sellers
Dukin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$5
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$25 1/2, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$15 1/2
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$6.75, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$95, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$27, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$107, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$47
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$118, sales & sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	183 p. c. prem. =
Insurances—		[353.75, s. & sellers]
Canton	\$50	\$200, sellers
China Fire	\$50	\$94, sales & sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$80, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sales & sellers
North-China	£25	Tls 202 1/2 ex div. a
Straits	\$20	\$28, buyers
Union	\$25	\$215, sales
Yangtsze	\$60	\$148, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$72, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.50, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$19 1/2, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$62, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$72 1/2, sellers
Jebebus	\$5	\$3.25, sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$1.90, sales
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$6, sales
Do. B.	\$2 1/2	\$3, sales
Punjom	\$4	\$13 1/2
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$3, buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$5.50, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$67 1/2, sales
China Mutual	25	\$8.10, sellers
Do Pref.	£10	\$7.10
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$54
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$33 1/2, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$65, sales
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37 1/2	\$40, sales & sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers

SHANGHAI, 1st May.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Largely owing to the tightness of money among the Chinese, there has been a desire to sell shares, but there is not much business to report. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—A sale was effected yesterday at 185 per cent. premium. Hongkong telegrams report the market as steady at 185 per cent. premium. National Bank of China—Shares are offering at \$31. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed locally at Tls. 49 and

Tls. 48 cash, and from Hongkong at \$63 for July and \$69 for August delivery. The sinking of the *Onwo* does not seem to have affected the market much, now that the settlement of the 30th ultimo is over. A resale of Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat shares to Hongkong was made at \$33.25, and shares are wanted at the same rate. Douglas Steamship shares were sold on the 24th at \$53, and shares are wanted. Docks.—Shares in Boyd & Co. have been placed at Tls. 205, and S. C. Farnham & Co. shares have been placed at Tls. 195, Tls. 200, Tls. 202, and Tls. 205. Hongkong & Whampoa Dock shares are offering at 183 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—Business is confined this week to Union at \$212, and Yangtzes at \$153. The market for the latter shares is weak with sellers at \$150. The local Companies interested in the *Onwo* are the China Traders, the North-China, the Union, the Yangtze, and the Canton. The other Companies known to be interested are the South British, the Commercial Union, and some Chinese Companies. The value of the cargo is estimated at Tls. 100,000, of which Tls. 60,000 are insured. Fire Insurance.—There is no business to report. Wharfs.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf share have been placed at Tls. 127, and Tls. 130 for June delivery. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown shares are offering at \$48. Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares have changed hands at Tls. 209. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares have been sold at Tls. 43, and Tls. 44. There are buyers on time. Chinas and Luzons are offering, without finding purchasers, either here or in the South. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares, with Tls. 30 paid up, have been sold at Tls. 60. A few fully paid up shares are offering at Tls. 81. Hongkong Land Investment shares were placed locally at \$71 and to Hongkong at \$71. They are wanted. Factories.—Business has been confined to Laou-kung-mow Cotton shares at Tls. 75, with three calls paid up. The fourth call of Tls. 25 was due yesterday, and we now quote the shares as fully paid up. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares were placed at Tls. 235. In Tobacco shares, business was done in Sumatras at Tls. 110, Tls. 112, and \$115 for cash, Tls. 115 for 12th May, and for 31st May at Tls. 112, Tls. 115, and Tls. 120. Langkats were placed at Tls. 730 cash and Tls. 775 for May delivery. The market is now weak with sellers. Shares in A. S. Watson & Co. have changed hands at \$12.75.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$356.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$31.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$115.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, pref. shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—\$2.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 48.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—Tls. 52.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—Tls. 23 1/2.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$32.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$53.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 200.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 205.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$347.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$79.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 207.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$212.
Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$150.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$200.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$29.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$325.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$91.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 125.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$47.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 24.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$14.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$3.
Jebeu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$34.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$5.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 200.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 110.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 207.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 44.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$123.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$68.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$71.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid).—Tls. 80.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (\$30 paid).—Tls. 60.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$20.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$94.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 45.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 72.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 100.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 300.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 130.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 260.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 235.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 115.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 730.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.—10.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 66.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$70.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$34.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$12.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$1.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$7.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 6th May.—During the past fortnight a fair amount of business has been transacted, but rates in all directions have considerably weakened. From Saigon to Hongkong about 8 to 8 1/2 cents is obtainable for medium-sized boats, but large carriers are not wanted. Bangkok to Hongkong, one small steamer has been fixed at 9 and 14 cents, but even at these low figures there does not seem to be any demand. From Java to this, one settlement is reported at a very low rate, but there is no further enquiry. From Newchwang to Canton there is very little doing and not more than 19 cents is offering. Coal freights from Moji to Hongkong have weakened to \$1.40 and tonnage could probably be obtained at a lower figure. From Moji to Singapore one settlement is reported at \$2. For sail freights two fixtures for New York are reported. A small ship has been settled for Callao at about 25s. per ton. For San Francisco a small vessel is enquired for at about \$2.25 to \$2.50.

There are two vessels disengaged in port, registering 2,221 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Manuel Laguna—American ship, 1,650 tons, hence to New York, private terms.

Lucile—American ship, 1,329 tons, hence to New York, private terms.

Glencalath—British barque, 466 tons, hence to Callao, \$50.

Orient—German barque, 461 tons, proceeds to Singapore under orders from owners.

Britannic—Norwegian steamer, 1,507 tons, three ports Java to Hongkong, private terms.

Ingraban—German steamer, 894 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul.

St. Louis—French steamer, 816 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 19 cents per picul.

Macduff—British steamer, 1,882 tons, hence to Yokohama and Kobe, \$4.250.

Macduff—British steamer, 1,882 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.45 per ton.

Strathelen—British steamer, 1,585 tons, Moji to Hongkong, part cargo, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per ton.

Inverlay—British steamer, 827 tons, Moji to Hongkong and Canton.

Propontis—British steamer, 1,390 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul.

Tailee—German steamer, 828 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul.

Strathlyon—British steamer, 1,511 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, \$3.800 in full.

Anjer Head—British steamer, 1,235 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 1/2 cents per picul.

J. Christensen—Norwegian steamer, 1,107 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 1/2 cents per picul.

Frannes—Norwegian steamer, 955 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 9 and 14 cents per picul.

Utrecht—Dutch steamer, 1,654 tons, Hoihow to Singapore, passengers, \$5 each.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 707 tons, Hoihow to Bangkok, passengers, \$5 each.

Strathesk—British steamer, 1,454 tons, Takao and Taiwanfoo to Yokohama, \$6,000 in full.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Manila to Yokohama, \$5,000 in full.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Amoy, Kelung, and Tamsui, 22 1/2 cents per picul.

Ingraban—German steamer, 894 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$4,200 per month.

Dante—Dutch steamer, 1,302 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$4,500 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Cowrie* (str.), Java (str.), Ceylon (str.), *Sarpedon* (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—*Saghalien* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Karlsruhe* (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Queen Elizabeth*, *Formosa*, *Coptic* (str.), *City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.).
For VICTORIA.—*Olympia* (str.), *Asaloun* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Tam O'Shanter*, *Gerard C. Tobey*, *Lucy A. Nickels*, *Radnorshire* (str.), *Benalder* (str.), *T. F. Oakes*, *Lucile*.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

April—

ARRIVALS.

28, Kwong-mo, British str., from Tamsui.
28, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., from K'notsu.
29, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
29, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
29, Wingsang, British str., from Moji.
29, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
29, Fuping, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
29, Strathesk, British str., from Moji.
29, Onsang, British str., from Samarang.
29, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
29, Glenorchy, British str., from Saigon.
29, Pakhoi, British str., from Shanghai.
29, Jacob Christensen, Nor. str., from Saigon.
29, Hertha, German str., from Hamburg.
30, Utrecht, Dutch str., from Saigon.
30, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
30, Idzumi Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
30, Amara, British str., from Saigon.
30, Redpole, British g-bt., from Takau.

May—

1, Cheangchew, Brit. str., from Singapore.
1, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
1, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
1, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
1, Benmohr, British str., from Kutchinozu.
1, Mirzapore, British str., from Bombay.
1, Tritos, German str., from Bangkok.
1, Inchdune, British str., from Bangkok.
1, Manila, British str., from London.
2, Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
2, Menelaus, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Moyune, British str., from Liverpool.
2, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
2, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.
2, Australia, German str., from Moji.
2, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
2, Nanchang, British str., from Bangkok.
3, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
3, Breconshire, British str., from London.
3, Chingping, Chinese str., from Canton.
3, Choysang, British str., from Swatow.
3, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
3, Glenshiel, British str., from Shanghai.
3, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
3, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
3, Mathilde, German str., from Hoihow.
3, Osborne, British str., from Moji.
3, Petrarch, German str., from Saigon.
4, Palamed, British str., from Shanghai.
4, Memnon, British str., from Sandakan.
4, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.
4, Loyal, German str., from Bangkok.
4, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
4, Cosmopolit, German str., from Tamsui.
4, Australian, British str., from Glasgow.
4, Brindisi, British str., from Bombay.
4, Feecheu, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
4, Irene, German str., from Kobe.
4, Kweiyang, British str., from N'chwang.
4, Clam, British str., from Novorossiak.
5, Pekin, British str., from Shanghai.
5, Hong Leong, British str., from Straits.
5, Hupeh, British str., from Java.
5, Maria Valerie, Aust. str., from Kobe.
5, Rattler, British g-bt., from Shanghai.
5, Gerard C. Tobey, Amr. bk., from N. York.
5, Pathan, British str., from Singapore.
5, Frogner, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
5, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
5, China, German str., from Saigon.
6, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
6, Karlsruhe, German str., from Bremen.
6, Phra Chom Klao, British str., from B'kok.
6, Stanfield, British bark, from Celebes.
6, Nord, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
6, Chibli, British str., from Chinkiang.
6, Ask, Danish str., from Hoihow.

April—DEPARTURES.

29, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 29, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Triumph, German str., for Pakhoi.
 29, Empress of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 29, Yarra, French str., for Europe.
 29, Annandale, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 29, Centaur, British str., for Kudat.
 29, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 29, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.
 29, Fuping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 29, Sikh, British str., for Nagasaki.
 30, Kong Alf, Norw. str., for Tamsui.
 30, Wuotan, German str., for Saigon.
 30, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 30, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 30, Kwong Mo, British str., for Amoy.
 30, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Wuhu, British str., for Singapore.

May—

1, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
 1, Progress, German str., for Hoihow.
 1, Formosa, British str., for Amoy.
 1, Idzumi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 2, Colorado, American Bark for Kebao.
 2, St. Louis, French str., for Newchwang.
 2, Cheangchow, British str., for Swatow.
 2, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 2, Menelaus, British str., for London.
 2, Mirzapore, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Picciola, German str., for Chefoo.
 2, Victoria, British str., for Tacoma.
 3, Brunhilde, German str., for Bangkok.
 3, Canton, British str., for London.
 3, Cassius, German str., for Amoy.
 3, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 3, Hertha, German str., for Yokohama.
 3, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., for K'notzu.
 3, Peru, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 3, Strathesk, British str., for Moji.
 3, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 3, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.
 4, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
 4, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 4, Hanoi, French str., for Pakhoi.
 4, Letimbro, Italian str., for Bombay.
 4, Lyeemoo, German str., for Shanghai.
 4, Manila, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Palamed, British str., for London.
 5, Utrecht, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 5, Orient, German bark, for Singapore.
 5, Swatow, German str., for Manila.
 5, Glenshiel, British str., for London.
 5, Feechen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 5, Chingping, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
 5, Moyune, British str., for Amoy.
 5, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
 5, Onsang, British str., for Amoy.
 5, Pakhoi, British str., for Singapore.
 5, Centurion, British cr., for Nagasaki.
 6, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 6, Osborne, British str., for Singapore.
 6, Canton, British str., for Canton.
 6, Mathilde, German str., for Pakhoi.
 6, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
 6, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
 6, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 6, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Lyeemoo*, str., from Shanghai.—Capt. H. Drewes.
 Per *Coptic*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Mass.
 Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila—Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Jones, Mrs. L. Sternberg, Miss Sternberg, Mrs. Mignon Wood, Messrs. E. K. Rawson Walker, A. Lapuente, Arturo Lapuente, E. Kahl, H. Brown, R. H. Wright, P. Punch, P. Pietro, G. Morehouse, W. Gillespie, and Jose Gonzalez.
 Per *Amara*, str., from Bangkok—Consul Gen. John Barrett.
 Per *Cheang Chew*, str., from Singapore.—Mr. Collins, and 653 Chinese.
 Per *Thales*, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Richardson and child, Mrs. Boyd and 2 children, Mr. Gillsett.
 Per *Mirzapore*, str., for Hongkong from London—Mr. and Mrs. C. Moore and infant, Mrs. Kerr, Dr. P. B. C. Ayres, Messrs. L. M. F. Grant, Frost, Thompson Brown, A. Van

Neirop, and Boyle. From Brindisi—Mr. E. Sharp. From Gibraltar—Dr. G. Haines. From Bombay—Mr. J. G. Gotlaseth. From Penang—Dr. Naomi Garton. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Manuel de Contrera and 2 children, Mr. Contrera, Junr., Miss Contrera, and Mr. Sun Poon Yung. For Shanghai from London—Messrs. Mains, Karl Hannsen, and A. Gracie. For Yokohama from London—Mr. and Miss Webb, Messrs. C. Arito, Elijah Keighley, Geo. Mudge, and Barrett. From Brindisi—Mrs. Becker. From Bombay—Lieut.-Col. R. C. Jones. From Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. G. Moke Norrie.

Per *Manila*, str., from London—Mr. Gillies.
 Per *Canton*, steamer, from Shanghai.—Mr. Sturrock.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Foochow, &c.—Messrs. Boran, Borking, T. K. Leng, and Masters Chaw (2).

Per *Chingtu*, str., from Kobe, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Graham.

Per *Choyang*, str., from Swatow—Messrs. H. R. Bostwick and Parsons.

Per *Fushun*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Mr. Sheddou. For Canton—H. E. Wong.

Per *Osborne*, str., from Moji, &c.—Mr. W. Hunter.

Per *Memnon*, str., from Sandakan.—Mr. and Mrs. Harrisman, Mr. Chanter Pin and family.

Per *Palamed*, str., from Amoy.—Dr. and Mrs. White and 2 sons, and 900 Chinese.

Per *Zafiro*, str., from Manila—Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Costa and child, Capt. J. L. Varques, Messrs. A. Pheis and P. H. Pablo.

Per *Antona*, str., from Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Addyman, Mr. and Mrs. Hennessy, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman and infant, Mrs. Daby, Mrs. and Miss Kirby, Masters Kirby (3), Miss A. Cooke, Messrs. H. Abdoolcada, Usigli, L. Nock Ying, Y. Fukuhara, K. Mori, M. Otabe, H. Hamada, and Man Chong Wo.

Per *Irene*, str., from Kobe—Mr. Langfeld.

Per *Pekin*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Messrs. Altsgul, F. J. Marshall, R. Levy, R. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Nielson. For Penang—Mr. E. H. Bratt. For Brindisi—Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Taylor. For London via Marseilles—Messrs. W. T. Phipps, H. G. Phipps, and Sergt. Kelly. For London—Mr. and Mrs. Mills and 2 children, Mrs. Redfern and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Easton and 2 children, Mrs. E. A. Tolliday and child, Miss Pook, Messrs. H. Maitland, Hofstrand, and Hoste. From Yokohama for Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Earle.

Per *Frogner*, str., from Bangkok—Mr. Buyers.

Per *Canton*, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Mr. H. H. Groundwater.

DEPARTED.

Per *Sachsen*, str., from Yokohama for Genoa—Messrs. Hogge, Chas. Lund, and Ph. Stoepel, Mrs. von Vincenti. For Southampton—Misses Klein and Hirow, Master Dinsdale. For Bremen—Mr. Reppke. From Hyogo for Singapore—Mr. W. Klein. From Nagasaki for Singapore—Messrs. Shekade Yoshbaro, Shekade Bie, and Fabiga Oma. For Port Said—Mr. Belowitzky. From Shanghai for Genoa—Messrs. A. W. Bowman, H. Heyn and family, Detring and family, E. Rheders and family, and Vice-Consul Dr. Eiswaldt and family. For Southampton—Mr. J. W. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Jack, Mrs. Richards and children, Mrs. Roope and children. For London—Messrs. J. B. Jarvis and D. S. Barclay. For Antwerp—Mrs. von der Stegen and children, Capt. and Miss Jenssen, Messrs. N. Merlan, F. Joh, C. A. Bonivers, and H. Fourneau. For Bremen—Messrs. H. Hummelke and W. Kressin. For Colombo—Messrs. E. Rehders and Jaupp. From Hongkong for Southampton—Messrs. J. White, E. S. Nisbet, J. R. Wilson, J. Jenkinson, J. D. Humphreys, and W. Norton. For Antwerp—Mrs. Thomas Keen and 2 children, Messrs. John Brownhill, L. M. Johansen, and Herm. Meyer. For Genoa—Mrs. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Ohlmer, Messrs. A. Fuchs, F. H. Slaghek, and S. Wushiel. For Bremen—Messrs. J. A. Westmack and Oskar Faye. For Port Said—Mr. and Mrs. v. Scheven. For Singapore—Messrs. P. Missen, A. Casy, and T. E. Pearse.

Per *Yarra*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon—Rev. Lacassagne. For Singapore—Rev. J. Martins, and Mr. S. Cohn. For Colombo—Rev. Mardiné. For Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Elliott and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. E. Farago and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. C. Gauthier and 3 children, Messrs. A. G. Dufetre, E. Pasquet, G. A. Menezes, W. S. Culver, C. A. d'Assumpcao, S. Wakefield, and L. Simon.

Per *Empress of India*, str., for Shanghai—Surg. P. M. May, Mr. and Mrs. Bell Irving, Mrs. Maddix, Messrs. T. Jackson, W. C. Wickersham, F. Tesio, Chu Yung Poo, Wong Yow Sad, Le Wai Hing, Tung Kit Sang, Fung Qui Hin. For Nagasaki—Mr. Kehren. For Kobe—Mrs. E. Sharp, Miss Penruddocke, General and Mrs. Black, Miss Black, Col. and Mrs. Norcott and child, Capt. Loveband, Capt. Bethune, Major and Mrs. Moller, Dr. Bathe, Messrs. F. Browne and G. Flood. For Yokohama—Miss Boyes, Misses Jackson (2), Mrs. Coxon, Mrs. Hunt, Messrs. F. W. Hall, E. A. H. F. Sammon, R. H. R. Burder, W. T. Arnold, E. H. Sharp, P. Cribb, G. Guerin, J. Galand, G. Saunders, H. Henderson, W. Hookey, R. T. King, H. Hone, W. Coad, J. Sanders, Tai Ho, Capt. Fillett, Dr. F. O. Stedman, Mrs. Cheong, Mrs. Chan. For London—Capt. McElhinney, Lieut. A. Walpole, Messrs. F. Shaw, E. D. Sanders, A. G. Bristow, W. E. Hildreth, J. Windsor, Figgis, Miss Figgis, Capt. Agnew. For Liverpool—Major and Mrs. Armstrong. From Shanghai for London—Lieut. G. H. Griffith. From Kobe for London—Dr. and Mrs. Rudolf. From Yokohama for Vancouver—Messrs. A. A. Orme and J. Coutts. For London—Hon. Bouverie, Hon. S. P. Bouverie, Col. Townshend, Messrs. A. L. Green, C. S. Roundell, R. Roundell, S. W. Cartwright, L. M. Wynch, D. Miller.

Per *Taisang*, str., for Shanghai—Messrs. R. Walker and A. R. Woodrow, Col. Wright.

Per *Haitan*, str., for Amoy—Mr. To Sewyan. For Foochow—Right Rev. Bishop Burdon, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Moss, and Mr. Charles Wolfe.

Per *Mirzapore* str., for Shanghai from Hongkong—Mrs. C. B. N. Dodd and child, Messrs. J. Barrett and W. J. Lister. From London—Messrs. E. Keighley, Barrett, Mains, K. Hannsen, and A. Gracie. From Brindisi—Mr. B. Sharp. From Bombay—Lieut.-Col. R. C. Jones. From Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. G. Moke Norrie.

Per *Canton*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. P. A. V. Remedios. For London—Mrs. Hunt. From Shanghai for London—Mrs. Jansen, 3 Misses Jansen, Mr. J. Jansen, Miss Law, Mrs. Oswald and 2 children, Rev. W. Owen, Mr. J. Osborne, Mrs. Osborne and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. E. Wheen and child, Messrs. G. H. Harper and W. Wright.

Per *Peru*, str., for Kobe—Messrs. L. M. J. Alvares and E. F. Alvares. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Jones, 2 Misses Thomson, Messrs. C. Ewens and Eugene Pras. For San Francisco—Miss M. Sutherland, Capt. Geo. Lafavour, Dr. Naoini Garton, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ah Tye.

Per *Victoria*, str., for Amoy—Mr. and Mrs. Moore and child, Mr. L. Grant. For Yokohama—Capt. R. Crawford. For Denver—Mrs. W. H. Potts and 3 children. For Tacoma, etc.—Messrs. Tangart and Louis Son. From Amoy for London—Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Hunter.

Per *Canton*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. P. A. V. Remedios. For London—Mrs. Hunt. From Shanghai for London—Mrs. Jansen and 3 Misses Jansen, Mr. Jansen, Miss Law, Mrs. Oswald and 2 children, Rev. W. Owen, Mr. J. Osborne, Mrs. Osborne and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. E. Wheen and child, Messrs. G. H. Harper and W. Wright.

Per *Lightning*, str., for Singapore—Mrs. So Choy, Mr. Yuen Ying Fong, Mrs. Fung Sui King, Mrs. Chun Fung and 3 sons, and Mr. Lo Tai Po. For Penang—Messrs. Ahoi, Boo Ann, Pho Boon Kau, and Ku Tek Seng.

Per *Manila*, str., from Hongkong for Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Farmer and child. For Kobe—Mr. S. J. Perry.

Per *Palamed*, str., for London—Dr. and Mrs. White and 2 sons, Messrs. W. A. Crane and Otto Francis.

Per *Glenshiel*, str., for London—Miss Robertson, Mrs. Walker, Messrs. Brown, J. B. Crament, and H. Wiseman, Mrs. McCabe, Masters Geoffrey and Denny Cooke, and Miss Audrey Cooke.